MONTROSE
MINNESOTA
1881
TO
1981

81.130 WCHS

PREFACE

This is a compilation of histories submitted by many residents, present and former, of Montrose and its environs. In most cases, the histories reflect mostly the 'good' memories; the times of extreme deprivation or hardship are conveniently forgotten.

A careful examination of the family histories would reveal that for the most part our ancestors learned at an early age that in order to survive, they had to adopt and/or adapt to the conditions that were theirs to face.

At the time (1881) when the people of the Montrose area decided to transform their community into a legal entity, these are some of the conditions that were a part of their lives:

President Garfield had been shot by an assassin in July, (died in September). An inexperienced politician, Chester Arthur, was at the helm of State.

The people of Minnesota were just recovering from a winter of exceedingly heavy snow falls.

A diet that, at best, depended on the vagaries of the climate and the knowledge and skills of themselves and their neighbors in the utilization and preservation of available food stuffs.

A communication system that, by present standards, was quite rudimentary.

A populace that generally had a 'grade school' education.

A people of diverse backgrounds, religions, and cultures that must meld together for the common good.

An inherent optimism that is a part of those who are willing to make a drastic change in their lives.

A State and Federal Government that would encourage and promote individualism and the opportunities to "succeed".

A Faith in a Kind and Benevolent Supreme Being that was a source of guidance and strength.

Since those days, many material changes have been made e.g., even the most affluent nobility of that time couldn't obtain the opulence that is within the everyday life of the present generation. i. e.; electricity, telephones, TV's, motor and space vehicles, instantaneous communications from around the earth and beyond, and access to multiple alternatives in acquiring an education.

A thought attributed to Abraham Lincoln:

"I like to see people proud of the place in which they live. I like to see people live so that their place can be proud of them".

Are you?

WRIGHT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
101 Lake Boulevard N.W.
Buffalo, Minnesota 55313

MONTROSE

Montrose was surveyed and platted in 1878 by J. F. Miller, T. S. Gunn, and J. N. Haven. The plat included the southwest quarter of section 35 and the southwest quarter of section 36. The proprietors opened a grain house and a general store and did a big business in grain, lumber and ties.

Montrose was incorporated in 1881 and the officers elected were President, W. H. Mapes; Trustees G. Burner, G. M. Wright, W. P. Holbrook and James Scott; Justice of the Peace, Thomas Weekly; Constable, James Synder.

Montrose is a pretty village of some 400 people located on the Great Northern thirty-five miles west of Minneapolis. It is surrounded by a rich prairie, and is neatly laid out, having some handsome residences. The brick school house is especially attractive.

U. S. Highway 12 began as part of the Yellowstone Trail Association (Or Great Glacier Trail). Groups, called the good roads movement, founded clubs in the late 1800's to set out highways. Members would put markers along trails to tell people where to go. The Yellowstone Trail Assoc. was registered July 26, 1917. It started on the west line of Washington County at Lakeland and terminated at Ortonville.

In 1920 the Constitutional Amendment Number I, called the good roads amendment, organized to connect county seats. Highway 12 was then established. The other main highway, old State Highway 25 (now County 12) connects Montrose with Buffalo on the north and Watertown on the south.

The business district moved from railroad street to Highway 12 in the 1930's after fires gutted most of the buildings on railroad street. Businesses on Highway 12 at that time were Red's Coffee Bus, Onstott's hotel, Eckerman's Grocery, Lundsten Lumber, Wandersee's Garage and numerous service stations.

MONTROSE FACT SHEETS

LOCATION

The Village of Montrose is located 30 miles west of Minneapolis on U.S. Highway 12 and State Highway 25 intersection in Wright County. Highway 12 was part of the Great Glacier Trail (or Yellowstone Trail).

POPULATION

1870 — 141
1900 — 305
1920 — 268
1940 — 275
1960 — 357
1970 — 379
1980 — 756

HISTORY

Montrose was named for a town in his home county of the first settler, George M. Wright, which was Montrose, Pennsylvania. Montrose was plotted in 1878 and incorporated as a village in 1881

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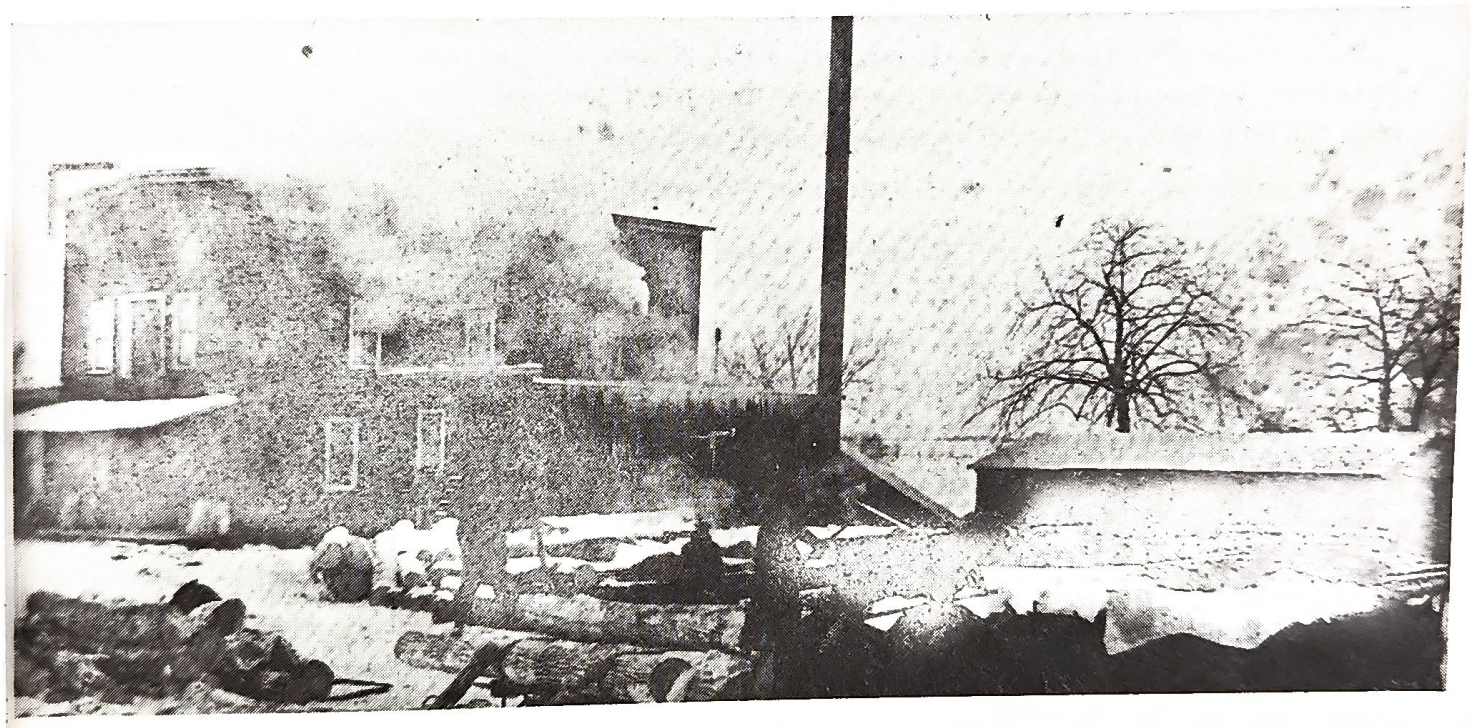
ZONING & CODES	Zoning and building codes have been adopted and are being observed.
STREETS	About 4 miles of streets are maintained with all but 2 city blocks paved.
POLICE PROTECTION	One part-time policeman is on call at all times. The County police patrol also help control.
GOVERNMENT	A mayor and four councilmen form the city's governing body. There is also a city clerk and city treasurer
WATER & SEWER	Chlorine and fluoride are added to the two wells that are used. A sanitary sewer system was installed in 1965 and land purchased to supply a second holding pond.
FIRE PROTECTION	Fire protection is provided by a 28 man volunteer fire department. Motor equipment consists of one fully equipped pumper and three tank trucks with pumps, and one rescue truck. Howard Thoreson is Fire Chief
CHURCH	St. Paul's Lutheran Church United Methodist Church 125 Montrose residents are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Waverly
RECREATION	The city has one central city park and a city municipal ball park, operated by the Softball, Inc. The Montrose Gun Club, has a trapshoot.
SANITATION	Garbage collection and disposal is provided by the city and is paid from the general fund. Benson Garbage and Refuse picks up the city garbage on Saturdays
COMMUNITY SERVICE CLUBS	Lions Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary and Jr. Aux. Women's Club 4-H QQ Club Friendly Neighbors Boy Scouts - Cub Scouts Girl Scouts - Brownies Softball, Inc. Pioneers St. Paul's Ladies Aid Methodist W.S.C.S. PTO Senior Citizens

TRANSPORTATION	The Great Northern Railroad no longer makes scheduled stops in Montrose Greyhound Bus lines stop twice daily. U.S. Highway 12 and State Highway 25
POWER	Electricity came to Montrose in 1918. Northern States Power Company supplies power
FUEL	Bottle gas, coal, oil, electricity and wood is available for residential and commercial uses
TELEPHONE	Lakedale Telephone Exchange with offices in Annadale

For many people now living in Montrose, it is perhaps difficult to realize that there were many flourishing businesses in the early history of Montrose. Therefore, we would like to include the following article taken from the History of Wright County, Volume II, published in 1915.



Montrose Roller Mill aprox 1912.

Inside Little Confectionary Store 1917

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CITY GOVERNMENT

MAYORS

1920-26 W. F. WANDERSEE
1927-28 H. W. WRIGHT
1929-33 HERMAN WANDERSEE
1934-37 ED FERRELL
1942 ED POGREBA
1938-63 W. D. STEVENS
1964-65 EARL ELLETSON
1966-69 W. D. STEVENS
1970, Jan. to May EDD ONSTOTT
1970, June to 1971 GERALD DUBBIN
1972-77, June ORLAND KREITLOW
1977, July-1979, JUNE EARLE POLZIN
1979, July-present WILLIAM J. BABATZ

CITY CLERK

1920-41 T. A. THORESON
1941-51 JAC PFLEPSON
1952-present CHARLES W. NELSON

TREASURER

1920-23 H. H. KNOLL
1924 D. ROBERT JOHNSON
1925-26 CHARLES DALE
1927-36 H. H. KNOLL
1937-39 E. A. PFAFF
1940-49 ART WRIGHT
1950-63 ELEANOR WRIGHT
1964-65 MARVIN SCHEUBLE
1965-present ELEANOR WRIGHT

THOMAS WEEKLY was the first Justice of the Peace in Montrose.

MARY LORIE all worked ... this

MONTROSE CITY GOVERNMENT AS OF 1 MAY '81

BILL BABATZ, Mayor
CHARLIE NELSON, Clerk
ELEANOR WRIGHT, Treasurer

Council Members
BRUCE LEMKE
STEVEN PETERSON
GARY WRIGHT
ROY KREITLOW, water superintendent
HOWARD THORESON, fire chief

Almanac

1866- Montrose Postoffice - (on route from St. Paul to Forest City) In Mr. Wrights home.
1873- Christian Kraus came; Hardware Store, Lumber business
Postal cards were first used — (World Book)
1878- Postoffice moved to railroad Station - Montrose was platted
1879- Salvation Army established in U.S.
First light bulb Company, Edison Lamp Works.
1881- Montrose, Minnesota was incorporated
James A. Garfield President 1881 died Sept. 19, 1881
Chester A. Arthur president 1881 to 1885
1882- H. W. Longfellow died
1883- John Howard Payne, died Wrote Home Sweet Home.
1885- Special delivery service became available
1892- Nov. 6. Bernice Wright Elletson Dupouy born in Montrose, Minnesota.
1893- America The Beautiful was written in year 1893 (summer) by Katherine Lee Bates
1st money order sold in Montrose
1895- Cuba natives rebelled for the sixth time in 50 years against the mis-rule of Spain, and founded a republic.
1896- First Modern Olympic Games - held at Athens, Greece
Rural Free Delivery Service began
1898- Roller clothes wringer available for sale in catalog dated 1898, Montgomery Ward & Co. Chicago, Ill.
February 15, 1898 our battleship Maine was blown up in the Harbor of Havana & 260 of her sailors killed.
1899- Dec. 19, 1899 Dr. Hawkins acquired property of Montrose Roller Mills
1901- Farmer's Coop-Creamery established
1903- Dan Patch won 15 races.
1904- Montrose School burned.
1905- Montrose School built

1906- Ford Model "T" came out.
1909- April 4, 1909 Rev. P. J. Blumekranz conducted the first Lutheran Service in Montrose Village
The first noiseless typewriter was placed on the market
1910- 4-H Clubs begun - Boy Scouts Begun
1912- Girl Scouts Began
1913- Civil Service Exam established by postal dept.
1915- St. Pauls Evangelical Lutheran congregation met May 18.
Homemakers Group Met Oct. 17, 1915
1916- Christian Israelites predict millenium.
1917- U.S. entry in World War I
1918- Electricity came to Montrose.
Needlecraft Magazine was out - five cents a copy.
Fels Naptha Soap advertised.
Victrola Advertised $250. Electric $300. — elastic advertised, there was a contest on naming the uses of elastic. 1st prize went to lady naming 217 uses.
Armistice Day Nov. 11th.
1920- The electric Typewriter appeared.
1925- Montrose Women's Club organized.
1927- Making of Model "T" was stopped - Model "A" Ford was introduced.
1928-29- U.S. Hiway 12 widened and paved.
1929- Stockmarket Crash
1930- First transcontinental flight by women —
Planet Pluto discovered - Veterans Administration created-
1930- First east west nonstop transatlantic flight - Paris to N.Y. in 37 hrs, 18 min.
Drought toll in Midwest reported - dry spell in 10 states
1931- March 3, 1931 The Star Spangled Banner was made our National Anthem by Act of Congress.
22 cattle perished in Bednary barn fire
1932- Ford came out with first V8 car-
1933- Prohibition repealed
1934- Dr. Ole Grundset bought property in Montrose, April 27.
1935- Montrose had school paper - Montrose Flash
1936-
1937-
1938-
1939-
1940- Armistice day Snow Storm
1941- Attack on Pearl Harbor
1942- Montrose High School Closed.
1943- Ration Coupons were in effect-
1945- V.E. And V.J. Days end of WWII
1950- TV became available in Montrose.
1951- Korean Conflict began
1952-
1953- Truce signed in Korea
1954-

MARY, LORIE, all worked.

1955- First Presidential appearance on color T.V. June 7, — Federal minimum wage raised to $1.00 an hour. - Pres. Eisenhower has heart attack. - First sea going oil-drilling rig - drilling in depths over 100 feet of water. A.F.L. & C.I.O. merge.
1956-
1957-
1958-
1959- Leo & Clive Coequyt bought bar from Chalupsky
1960- District # 58 School Closed.
1961-
1962- Montrose Railroad Depot Closed.
1963- John F. Kennedy assassinated
1963- Bay of Tonkin Incident
1964-
1965- Great Northern Donated depot to V.F.W.
Big snow storm March 17 - Crow River Floods later in year.
1966- Montrose Depot was moved. cost of $700
1967- V.F.W. Hall opened in Nov. Boy Scout Troop 312 - over night hike at Albrights Mills, 18 degrees below Zero.
1968-
1969- First man on the Moon!
1970- U.S. population tops 200 million — U.S. voting age lowered to 18 — Arab terrorists hijacked 4 airliners. — Environmental Protection Agency created.
1975- Montrose New Elementary School.
1976- Bicentennial
1977-
1980- Mt. St. Helen's eruption.
1981- 53 hostages set free. Montrose 100 years, going on 200.

Montrose places which I remember in early days — BY GOLDIE JESKE

GUS KRETCHMER'S Blacksmith shop - west of GIB YAGER house
STOLZMAN'S Hardware - north of GIB YAGER house
LOUIE MILLER Store with Town Hall above - where ELEANORE LITTLE lives
MAS STAGGEMAN'S saloon - WILMOT DOUGLAS site
Stockyards, saw mill, flour mill, elevator, 3 hotels, CHARLIE LITTLE grocery and confectionery, my grandfather's ice cream parlor (JAMES C. DENOON) - my grandmother made all the ice cream by hand.
Roller skating rink - in DROTZ GARAGE and later the RIAR STEVENS machine & implement store
Farmer's Mercantile Co, OSCAR GOODWIN confectionery, telephone office, livery stable, bank, FRED MILLER general Store with IOOF Hall upstairs, the OLD, OLD schoolhouse, 2 creameries, FLEUHER'S restaurant, EARL PICKETT'S CAFE, JOHN HERMAN'S store, MOORE'S store, STEINGAS' garage, hospital, OSCAR LANGNER'S blacksmith shop, the very old Montrose Band with red uniforms. The street where EV HAYES lives was all woods except for the FRED ECKERMAN (Mapes then) house and the old Lutheran parsonage. Used to have big 4th of July celebrations in those woods.

GOING CONCERNS:

In 1878

4 general stores
1 hardware store
1 furniture store
1 picture shop
1 boot & shoe store
1 sewing & farm implement outlet
2 blacksmith shops
1 hotel
1 saloon
1 harness shop
2 elevators
grain house (elevator)

In 1910

high school
creamery
bus depot
Church of Christ
Evangelical church
2 hardware stores
bank
drugstore
railroad depot
flour mill
elevator
feed mill
Haven's saw mill
hotel
shoe repair shop
millinery store
dressmakers shop
hospital
2 doctors
revival meetings
blacksmith shop
3 saloons
about 10 trained nurses
2 large dry goods stores

from an old letter of Mrs. Fred Eckerman's

KELLY STORE

The KELLY family bought the Eckerman Grocery from MR. & MRS. FRED ECKERMAN in April of 1946. At that time the Kellys were living in Waverly, Minnesota, and the family consisted of Mr. & Mrs. Kelly and son PAT, who was a baby at the time. It was about two years later that they found a place to live in Montrose and moved. In the meantime another son, DAVE, was born.

At the time that they purchased the store many things were still rationed and government price controls were still on. The quota for the store on many rationed items was low. It took some time for the ration office to increase the quota.

MRS. CLARA PFLEPSEN had worked for Mr. Eckerman when the store was purchased. She was persuaded to continue on and she worked at the store for many years. She was a dedicated worker.

About six months after the store opened a gala event was held. Merchandise being short, they had bought a lot of hard to get items and had them on hand for a one day sale. That morning at 7:30 A.M. cars were parked down as far as the railroad and up Highway 12 for a mile and a half. The store was very busy that day.

MARVIN SCHEUBLE hauled groceries for the store from a wholesale house in St. Paul. When he would get home with the truck some of his family would come and help unload. He also kept the snow plowed in front of the store for parking. Most of the time some member of the SCHEUBLE family was working at the store. MELVIN. RICKY, PEGGY, JUDY, RENEE, JANICE, DEBBIE, ROSE

MARY, LORIE, all worked.

In 1950 the Kellys took a trip of the southern and western states. During this time ESTHER ANDERS helped to run the store. She continued working until the store was sold. DOROTHY HABSTRITT and VERA HASS worked at the store many years. Many times these people were called on short notice to come and keep the store open.

The Store was sold to EARL LAVINE on Jan 1, 1980 and the KELLYS moved to St. Paul, Minn.

RED'S CAFE

In 1931 ELMO (RED) REDMOND bought land on Hwy 12 from Charlie Johnson, owner of the filling station on the corner. He then brought the body of an old Greyhound bus from Minneapolis and set up Red's Coffee Bus. He hired his first waitress for $5.00 a week, plus board. She worked seven days a week. GERTRUDE (BIRDIE) LOCKE came as a waitress in 1932 and is still with Red, now as a partner in marriage. Margaret Salonek also worked for Red for years. He had many compliments for the people who worked for them over the years.

Red would go to fairs with a popcorn wagon and later he put the wagon on the back of the bus for a kitchen.

In the early days of business they had to carry water from the service station in the winter and then use a garden hose for water in the summer.

Red's Coffee Bus was open 24 hours a day for 18 years. Red would sleep with his head on the counter. That dedication paid off because Red's 5¢ coffee and delicious American fries are still known throughout the state. He remembers when Willmar played in the state basketball tournament, about 200 fans swarmed the bus waiting to be served.

In the 1930's a sandwich was 10¢ and T-Bone steak 60¢. A malted milk cost 15¢. Prices are still reasonable; e.g. Easter Sunday dinner in 1981 was $3.00.

In 1947 the bus was replaced by a brand new building. Since that time each new owner would do some renovating. Red's Coffee Bus and Cafe was sold to MR. AND MRS. FRANKLIN SIPE in 1966. Sipes sold the cafe to MR. & MRS. JACK JOHNSON. LARRY MILLER is the present owner.

Larry has continued the excellent service and delicious food. He isn't open 24 hours a day but it must seem like it when the crowds come on week-ends for breakfast after Leo & Clive's close.

BUSINESSES

The following is a list of businesses that have been, or are, in Montrose. Starred names are those that are presently in operation. Names and occupations have been compiled from family histories, newspapers, gossip, letters. We realize the list is incomplete but we hope not too inaccurate. Dates behind some names are from the material where we found the names.

Authors
Ellen Turngren
Annette Turngren
Margaret Stevens
Connie O Dentahl

Automobiles-Garages
W. F. Wandersee
*Bob Holslin's Body Shop
Montrose Motors
*Dale's Body Shop
*Doug's Body Shop
Eckelberry's Filling Station
Heins' Motor Repair
*Jerry Dubbin's Standard
Charlie Johnson's Conoco
EQual- Jack Johnson & Sons
Leon Drottz's Montrose Tire Shop
Howard Habstritt's Standard Gas
Duffy & Stevens Montrose Garage
*Ed Marketon's Auto Repair
Lee Van Nurden's Midland Oil
Montrose DX
Roy Kreitlow's service station
John Beetle's Shell station
Dave Douglas' Shell

Banks
State Bank of Montrose closed in 1929
*State Bank of Delano-Montrose Branch - started Jan 25, 1979

Barbers
August Korinta
Roy Biggins

Beauty Shops
*Judy Bodin's Beauty Shop
Florence Cardinal's Beauty Shop
Judy DeMars' Beauty Shop

Beer-Liquor
J. H. Streeter Saloon 1892
Louie Ruziska's
Amos'-Amos Chalupsky
*Leo & Clives-Leo & Clive Coequyt
Eddie's Beer Parlor-Eddie Pogreba
Beryl Hayes' Beer Parlor
Onstott Beer Parlor-Clarence Onstott
Owl Club-George Adickes & Harold Salonek
Ray Biggins' Owl Club
Ed Erickson's Beer Parlor and Pool Hall
Hank Greer Beer Parlor
Max Stegemann-Wines, liquors, cigars

Blacksmiths
Otto Smith
William Wandersee
Oscar Langner
Oscar Bodin

Carl Nelson
Fred Volkenant
Peter Dahl
Gust Kretschmer
Charlie Denoon

Cafes
*Red's Coffee Bus & Cafe
Fleur's Cafe
Earl Pickett's Cafe
Liederbach's Bus
Onstotts Cafe

Confectionery
Charlie Little's destroyed by fire in 1934
C. P. Stapleton-1915
L. M. Robinson-1892
W. H. Wright

Carpenters
Gottleib Herman
Laurence Stotko
Herman and Buddy Jeske
Edward Splettstoeszer
Jan Ferrell
Charles Nelson

Creamery
Farmers Co-op Creamery Assoc. closed about 1958

Department Stores-Dry Goods-General Merchandise
F. W. Ruppelius
Louis Miller
Montrose Farmer's Mercantile Co.
Johnson Store-Louis Johnson
Miller & Volkenant 1892
Kraus & Houser 1879
Fred W. Eckerman
O. J. Ferrell
G. A. Yager
Hesse General Store

Dentists
H. T. Ostrum
S. D. Carter
Dr. Brown

Draymen
Floyd Puffer
Tib Wright
Phil Zeller

Elevators
Montrose Independent Elevator-Quinn Bros.
Jim Berquist-1896
Montrose Roller Mill

Thorpe Elevator
E. D. Elsenpeter
Montrose Milling-Q. A. Denzel

Excavating
Ouverson Excavating, Doug Ouverson
Louis Rancour Excavating

Feed Stores
Endreson's Feed, Tony Endreson
Farmer's Co-op Creamery

Fuel Delivery
Montrose Fuel W. G. Young-1915
Johnson & Sons-1970's
*Waddell Oil formerly Erv's Bargin Spot
Montrose Oil

Furniture & Upholstery
C. S. Rennix

Greenhouses
Nelson's Greenhouse & Nursery, Bert Nelson

Groceries & Meats
Leopold Yager
G. A. Yager Grocery & Meat Market (sold to Adickes & Janicula
Montrose Store-Erv Adickes & Archie Janicula
Ben Simon Groceries (sold to Chmmielwski in 1929)
R. W. Ruff Meats-1915
Fred W. Eckerman Groceries (sold to Francis Kelly)
Kelly's (sold to Earl & Winnie LaVine)
*Montrose Market-Earl & Winnie LaVine
Endreson's Fruit & Vegetable Stand-Leonard Endreson
*Millerbernd's Vegetable Stand-Dick Millerbernd
Charles & Sydnea Denoon
Lively Ferrell Butcher Shop

Hardware
Stoltzman Hardware, C. A. Stoltzman
L. A. Klatt Hardware
O. J. (Dick) Ferrell Hardware
Gamble Hardware-James Gamble & Son, Bob
Jac & Clara Pflepson Hardware (sold to Gamble)
Louis Johnson Hardware & Dry Goods 1892
Bill Hemphill Hardware

Harness Shop & Tack
August Leiters
John Green-Robes, blankets, bells
A. D. Storey

Hatchery & Poultry
Epple's Hatchery, Ray Epple
Jenkins & Gamble Poultry
J. Leuzinger Sr., Montrose Poultry Yards

Hotels
- Montrose House 1892
- Wright Hotel - Wm. Hudson and Ida Wright
- Klatt Hotel - Louie & Lottie Klatt
- Forest House - W. H. Mapes
- Onstott's - Clarence - Pansy Onstott

Icemen
- Bill Hemple
- Phil Zeller
- Bill Stevens
- Mumford's

Leather Good
- John Greens 1892

Livery
- Oscar Balsinger
- John Hermann Livery
- Oscar Langner

Lumber & Saw Mills
- H. Kraus 1892
- Liberty Lumber; F. E. Belden, manager 1915
- L. E. Streeter Lumber (sold to Lundsten)
- *Lundsten Lumber
- J. Haven
- J. S. Denoon

Machinery
- Azriah Stevens Machinery 1917
- Stacey Bros. McCormick Deering

Masonry
- L. F. Flanders
- Kreitlow Masonry

Millinery
- 7 dressmakers
- Fred Miller
- Mrs. George Stapleton
- Anna Fautch Stotko-Dressmaker

Milkroute
- Floyd and Elsie Puffer
- Tib Wright
- *Oak Grove-Bob Zrust

Monuments & Headstones
- O. S. Woodard 1892

Newspapers
- Montrose News, 1892 Will H. Taylor
- Montrose Banner, 1913 Ellen Turngren
- Montrose Graphic
- Wright Co. Industrial Bulletin, 1909

Photo Studio
- Charles Wright

Automobiles-Garages
W. E. Wandersee

Physicians
Dr. E. P. Hawkins
Dr. Ole Grundset
Dr. F. M. Boll
Dr. Roholt
Restaurants
Wessex, formerly Berkners, now owned by Jim Slice
Stockyards
John Seibel
Taxidermist
Paul Wiaderko
Trucking
Scheuble Trucking
Fred Steingas Trucking
Paul Prestidge Trucking
Earl Lundberg Trucking
Montrose & Waverly Shipping Assn.
Watch Repair
Jack Hayes
Well Drillers
*Stevens Bros.
Hank Wright
Henry Louisiana
Miscellaneous
*BDS Co., Durand Crawford, dry cleaning route
Busse Roofing, John Busse
*Cabin in the Holler, Marge Ferrell & Marge Tower, craft shop
*EIC Mfg, Ron Ellefson, gasohol plant
*Greyhound Bus Station at Novacek's Conoco
*Hank's Pattern Shop
Haven Hall
Jackie Heinecke's Plants 'N Things
Kingstedt's Furnace
*Lakedale Telephone
Minnesota Rendering
*Montrose Manor, mobile home park
*Ouverson Sales, Clarence Ouverson, used machinery sales
*Salonek Roofing & Repair, Jerry Salonek
*Sight 'N Sound, Bob Millerbernd
12 Hi Mobile Home Park & Sales
*Van Nurden Popcorn Stand, Lee Van Nurden
*12 Hi Mobile Home Estates

TELEPHONE

Wright County Telephone Company came to Montrose about 1904 by LOREN OLLIG. There was a central office in Montrose until 1922 when the company felt it was too costly to have a central office in both Montrose and Waverly.

Lakedale Telephone Company, Annandale, now owns the telephone company. In 1968 there were 3 pay stations, 3 two-party lines, 64 four-party lines and 89 eight-party lines. In 1974 all multi-party lines converted to private lines. An underground cable was put in about the same time.

GIRL SCOUTS

The first Girl Scout meetings in Montrose were held on March 15, 1966. The Brownie leaders were JOY COEQUYT and MARGIE ONSTOTT and the Junior leaders were SANDY SALONEK and MERRILLA SOCHER.

Meetings were held in the Montrose Town Hall for several years and in the former Montrose School. Now the troops meet at the VFW building.

As the years went by and the girls became older, it was important to give them more advanced scouting experiences so a Cadette troop was formed with PAM JOHNSON as leader. In 1972, a Senior troop was also formed. The troop numbers for each of these groups are: Brownie troop, #403; Junior troop, #492; Cadette troop, #362; Senior troop, #1113.

Many girls and their parents have benefitted from the numerous scouting experiences available to them such as: day camping, tent camping, tours, calendar sales, hikes, ceremonies, etc. And a tip of the cookie box to ARLINE RANCOUR who has chaired the cookie sales for our troops for many years.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE 1858-1981

The Methodist Church of Montrose and vicinity dates back to 1858, when at least ten families of interested friends decided to join together to pray for one another and to help each other live the Christian life. This group of settlers was called the Virginia Settlement, then the Fountain Lake Settlement, and finally the Montrose Methodist Church. The first services were held in the EZRA STACY log cabin on the north bank of Fountain Lake. The METHODIST CIRCUIT RIDER preachers played a leading part in these early days. The families involved in the early church were STACY, SWARTOUT, HIGGINS, LEIGHTER, and STREATER.

In 1860 these people planned to build a log church on the north end of the Big Marsh. However, the Civil War began and Indian troubles interrupted, so it was never finished. When Montrose village was planned, services were held in an unfinished store building north of the railroad tracks. Later these small groups joined to form the Montrose congregation. In 1881 a frame church was built on Buffalo Street. Mr. J. N. HAVEN, a saw-mill operator furnished much of the lumber for the building.

At various times the church was connected with Rockford, Howard Lake, Buffalo, Watertown and Delano. The first Sunday School records date back to 1884.

In 1903 REV. T. J. CHAPPELL was appointed to serve Montrose at a salary of $500.00. The next pastor was WILLIAM BOEMMELS in 1909.

During E. W. MUNSON'S pastorate, the Cassel Church and Montrose became one charge. They purchased a parsonage at this time. This building is now owned by DALE and SUE TRETTER.

The LadiesAid Society, Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, Men's Club and Epworth League were all active organizations.

REV. A. L. OLNEY followed REV. W. C. PAYFER in 1952. During his charge a building program was begun. The new church was ready for worship on February 7, 1954. REV. DON W. GRAY worked along side other members of the congregation in constructing the new church.

REV. ROSCOE, who followed REV. GRAY, served both Howard Lake and Montrose communities for one year. REV. RICHARD ELDRED was just ordained when he came on July 1, 1957. The community suffered a great loss when REV. ELRED and his wife were killed in a tragic accident.

While REV. FERN PIERCE, our first woman pastor, served we celebrated our centennial on November 9, 1958. Mrs. J. A. SEIBEL, MR. and MRS. W. A. DOUGLAS, MISS ESTHER MICHAEL, MRS. VESTA KNOLL, MRS. WILLIAM EPPLE and MRS. JOHN EPPLE marked their fifty year's membership.

On July 1960, REV. GEORGE ALMQUIST became pastor. He and his wife, MAVIS inspired the choir to perform many cantatas and attain a place of leadership in our service of music in worship.

A VICKI ONSTOTT Memorial Library was established in 1962. MR. EMIL AUGUSTINE served us one year while he attended college as did REV. ALMQUIST, and REV. HARVEY who succeeded him. REV. DONALD A. KINSER came in July 1968 and we again shared his services with Howard Lake. The KINSERS lived in Howard Lake and we rented out our parsonage in 1968 and 1969.

On November 1, 1969, MRS. WILLIAM (IDA) TESCH retired as church organist after serving for ten years. MRS. JAMES LITTLE took her place.

July 1970 marks the beginning of E. CLAYTON BURGESS, D.D. ministry of seven years. As a widower of a year, he longed for a rural church and a smaller congregation to love and care for as pastor.

In 1970 the parsonage was sold and the funds deposited in a certificate of deposit. In May 1971, MISS MILDRED NEWMAN, R.N. and missionary to Burundi, Africa, spoke at the morning service and Sunday School hour. She had been sponsored by our fourth Sunday Missionary offerings for a number of years. We filled Miss Newman's car with books, cartons of crayons and other items she needed in her work in Burundi. She had a mobile book store and publishing house.

A desk, given by the Ruby Walker family, has been installed in the narthex to contain the memorial book given in 1962 to record all memorial gifts.

In August 1972, the administrative board renegotiated the Mission loan of $1000 which was made in 1881 to $250.00, which we paid to the Mission Board to clear the title of the Montrose Methodist Church.

equipment to fires or rescue. In 1975 we

1973 ended with the installation of an aluminum steeple and cross. The roof of the front entrance was remodeled and the church bell housed in the steeple base.

In 1975 DR. BURGESS retired after 51 years as a Methodist minister. A farewell reception was served by the United Methodist Women. Dr. B's warm personality and caring ministry will be long remembered.

On September 15, 1978, our congregation was shocked to hear of the tragic death of our former pastor, GEORGE ALMQUIST of Salina, Kansas. He was Superintendent of Parish Development of the Kansas area. On September 30, 1979, we had a dedication service for the new sanctuary lighting and the Memorial Eternal light in memory of Rev. Almquist.

At this time we have 140 members and 60 enrolled in Sunday School. The United Methodist Women have 25 members and three honorary members. The Methodist Youth Fellowship membership is 10.

We are very happy with REV. BOROP'S sermons and leadership. His gentle ways at funerals is much appreciated and the family nights were well received.

The average attendance at worship service is 85.

Soli Deo Gloria

Submitted by Lucille Mohring

THE CASSEL CEMETERY

On April 30, 1869, John Seibel deeded land in the southwest corner of section 33, Township 119 to the cemetery to be held in trust by them "forever". The first board members were GOTTLIEB EPPLE, WALTER ALBITZ, and HENRY BRANDT.

The cemetery was named after Cassell, Germany.

CASSEL GERMAN METHODIST CHURCH

The Cassel Church was started before 1862. The first pastor was MR. SINGENSTREN, who was followed by the REV. J. MENTZ. In 1884 a new building was erected. The church was closed in 1940's. The Cassel bell is in the Delano United Methodist Church. The church was taken down in sections and moved to Maple Plain.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH in Montrose was taken down and the lumber was used to build the house where LEO and MERRILLA SOCHER live.

Approximately 125 families in and around Montrose are members of ST. MARY'S PARISH in Waverly

RAILROAD

Many family histories mention the importance of the railroad in the early days of Montrose. Railroad Street bustled with activity. The Wright Hotel, a barber shop, hardware store, elevator, stock yard and Roller Mill all depended upon the railroad, its workers or passengers for business.

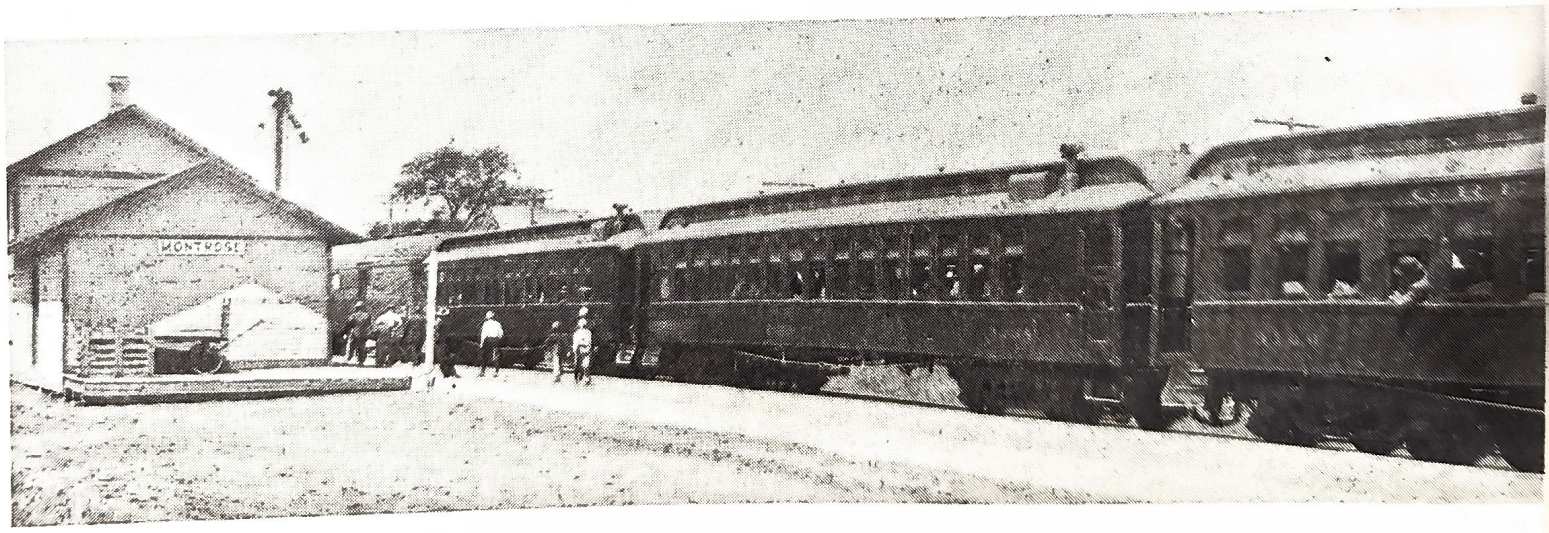
The first rail road, the St. Paul and Pacific, began a track from St. Paul to Breckenridge in 1864 and passed thru Montrose in 1869. At first it would simply come to Montrose and turn around and return to St. Paul. But the tracks moved on to Breckenridge in 1871. The line later became a part of the J. J. Hill's Great Northern Railroad Co. The Great Northern eventually consolidated with the Burlington Northern.

Ticket agents in Montrose were WILLIAM P. HOLBROOK in 1879; W. G. MICHAELS from 1901 to 1930's; M. P. JOHNSON in 1934; A. W. PHILLIPS from 1938 to 1943; A. C. MAY in 1945; R. R. MORTON from 1948 to 1952 and O. E. LARSON from 1954 to 1956.

Since the closing of the depot in 1958 the trains hardly slow up. All that remains as the green cars whiz by is the familiar whistle, bringing back many memories of a busier time in Montrose.

In 1965 the VFW Post #1901 bought the depot and converted into a meeting hall.

In the spring of 1980, a train was derailed a mile east of Montrose causing extensive damage.



Montrose Depot

LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club in Montrose was started November 3, 1980. The President is CLIVE CLOEQUYT, CHARLIE NELSON, secretary, and EARL LaVINE, treasurer. There are 22 members. On March 21st, charter night for the organization, 52 individuals and organizations donated to the Lions.

MONTROSE POST OFFICE

The Montrose Post Office was established in 1866 in the home of GEORGE M. WRIGHT. At that time mail was carried here on horseback.

After the railroads came, W. P. HOLBROOK, the rail road agent, was the postmaster when the post office moved to the depot. His assistant, WILLIAM H. WRIGHT, was the next post master. Between 1884 and 1902 MR. WRIGHT and WILLIAM G. YOUNG shared the job, depending on the political climate. In 1902 WILLIAM H. WRIGHT was postmaster until his death in 1930's. CLYDE FERREL was postmaster from 1934 until 1956. LEONARD ENDRESON has been post master since 1957.

WILLIAM HUDSON WRIGHT'S son-in-law DAN ELLETSON, was the rural mail carrier for 28 years. His wife, BERNICE, worked for the post office for 22 years after her husband's death.

The first rural route was established in 1903. DENNY MULHERN was a mail carrier for many years. ERV ADICKES is now a rural mail carrier. The Whipple Post office was discontinued in 1905 and moved to Montrose.

The Empire Builder used to stop 4 times a day with the mail.

In 1957 there were 37 miles of rural route roads and served 135 families. Now the route covers 70 miles and serves 530 families. In 1957 there were 50 boxes and now there are 530 box holders.

R. Stevens New Garage

Littles Confectionary - 1917

Buffalo Street

THE MONTROSE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

When the fire department was first organized is not known, so we will start back as far as we could find information.

Bill Redmond was the first fire chief and about every ablebodied man around the area signed up to be on the department. The first count we have records the names of 52 firemen. They had a hand pulled pump that needed four on each side to pump it. They had a hand pulled hose cart that had a 2½ inch hose with a large nozzle on it. This pump would throw a lot of water when it worked right. There were six large cisterns around town that held the water supply for fighting fires. At that time almost every home had its own cistern for soft water. One cistern was by the old school house, one by Dr. Hawkin's old hospital, one on the railroad bank by the big elm tree that is gone now, one by the house that Arnold Greehling lives in now, one by the new post office and one between the street and Leo and Clive's Liquor store.

Here are some of the worst fires that the town suffered with approximate dates —

1921 — The Dyke building east of the old Bank building, caught fire and extended over to the old Town hall that housed the jail in the rear. The jail cell is still in the back of the present town hall building and shows the effect of going through a fire.

1922 — The big five story Roller flour mill that stood where Charles W. Nelson now lives. During World War I this mill ran 24 hours a day milling the flour and bagging it for shipment overseas.

1931 — The old Klatt Hotel and the garage that was south of it. George Potter's house by the telephone building.

1932 — O. J. Ferrell Hardware Store that was across the street from the Owl Club. Leonard Schneider's barn. James O'Keefe 's house that stood north of the ball park.

1934 — The Hotel building on Railroad street, the Hardware store, the Erickson Pool Hall and the Hud Wright house, all burning the same night.

1945 — Carl Krueger's barn and sheds.

May 1, 1980 — Burlington Northern derailment east of the elementary school.

In 1937 the Fire Dept. purchased a fire rig from the Darley Co. that was mounted on a three wheel chassis with a Wisconsin engine and a centrifugal pump. It would handle two 1½ hoses with good pressure. Later this outfit was mounted on a four wheel trailer and it also carried ladders, pike pole, fire axes, suction hose and about 600 feet of 1½ inch hose.

After city water was put in in 1940-41 and the hydrants were put in use, the Fire Dept. could fight fires inside the village limits much better.

In 1950 the town bought a used 1942 International pumper with a 500 gallon Waterous pump for $2,965.00. It was a surplus fire truck from Cherry Point, North Carolina. This is still in use today.

In 1959 we started to serve the area with fire protection with the addition of our first tank truck. In 1962 we made a second tank truck to give better service. In 1969 we bought a used van and made a rescue van to carry all of our extra

equipment to fires or rescue. In 1975 we bought a used International tandem from Land O Lakes and made a 2,600 gallon tank to make a third tanker. In 1977 we replaced the Chevrolet tanker truck with a 6x6 Army surplus truck and in 1980 we replaced the Ford tanker truck with a G.M.C. truck. Our present equipment in 1981 includes 5 trucks, 1 pumper, 3 tankers and the rescue van.

Montrose has had only five fire chiefs to the best of our knowledge. BILL REDMOND was the first chief. H. H. KNOLL was chief until 1935. ROY KRIETLOW was fire chief until 1967 except for the years he was in the Navy from 1943 to 1946, when RUBE ASPLIN was acting chief. In 1967 our present chief, HOWARD THORESON was elected.

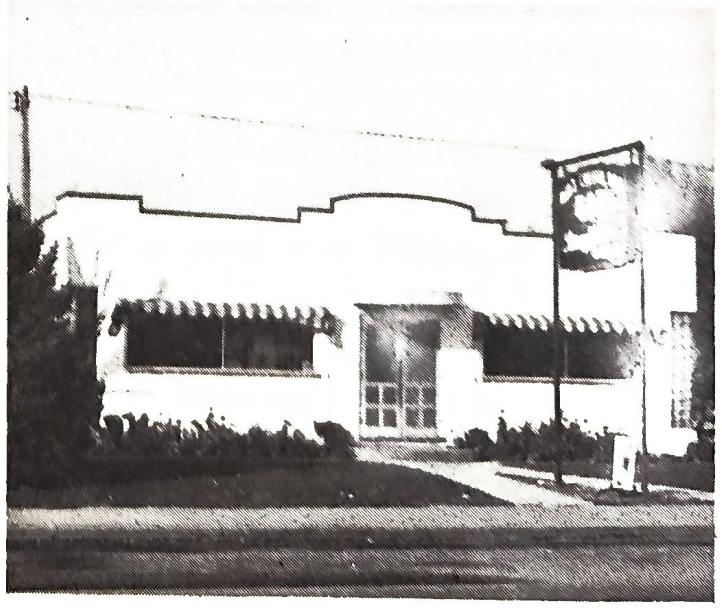
The fire equipment was always kept in the back of the Village hall, until in 1958 when we built the first part of the present hall. In 1970 we added the addition on the west side so we could have all of our equipment under one roof. With most of the work being done by the firemen themselves, the cost of both building projects was kept very low. All of our extra tank trucks and rescue van have been built at low cost because the firemen do much of the work themselves.

The Fire Dept. now has mutual aid contracts with the following cities . . . Buffalo, Delano, Watertown, Waverly, Howard Lake and Winsted.

The Fire Dept. has helped the city of Montrose on a number of cold winter days and nights when the water tower was frozen. They thawed it out by drilling a hole in the ice down through the inside the tank and standpipe. We the firemen, hope this is corrected now that they have insulated the standpipe.

The 27 members of the present fire department are — Chief HOWARD THORESON, Assistant Chiefs, ELMO REDMOND and ERWIN ADICKS, Secretary DONALD BABATZ, Treasurer ALFRED MOHRING and the following firemen — CHARLES W. NELSON, WILLIAM BABATZ JR., WILLIE BAUERNSCHMITT, DAVID BODIN, CLIVE COEQUYT, CLYDE DALCHOW, ROY DALCHOW, GERALD DUBBIN, ROLAND HAYES, BRUCE LEMKE, LARRY MILLER, STEVEN PETERSON, LOUIS RANCOUR, HAROLD SALONEK, EARLE POLZIN, MARVIN SCHEUBLE, LLOYD THEISEN, GARY WRIGHT, MIKE SCHMIDT, DEAN WARDEN, DENNIS SCHAUERS and EARL LAVINE.

Red Cafe 1933



Reds Cafe 1948

MONTROSE HOSPITAL

DR. E. P. and VERA HAWKINS moved to Montrose in October 1897, four months after he graduated from medical school in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He opened his office in his home, where ELEANOR WRIGHT now lives.

The people in Montrose and surrounding areas welcomed him with open arms. He won many friends with his skill, sympathy and knowledge. Dr. Hawkin's practice grew rapidly. In those days, doctors made housecalls and he visited the sick in their homes when he was needed whether it was 40 degrees below 0 or 3 a.m.

In 1903 because of great demand, he opened one of the first hospitals in Wright County. His hospital was very well equipped with 12 beds and six nurses to tend the patients.

His wife worked right along side him and was of great help to him. She was good, not only with the physical needs of patients, but also with their emotional needs.

Dr. Hawkin's head nurse was CHRISTINE OLSON. She was not a registered nurse but she had many nursing skills.

In 1914 a training school for nurses was organized. He always had between four to six women on the three year training program.

The hospital was a private one but other doctors from the area used the facilities. DR. E. A. WARNER of Waverly would come and help DR. HAWKINS in a pinch. He also assisted in some of the surgeries.

In Dr. Hawkin's later years of practice he would close the hospital for the winter and go to Florida for his health. DON EPPLE remembers his parents telling how they hoped he would be born before Dr. Hawkins left in November.

Dr. Hawkins was a 7th Day Adventist and a firm believer in prayer. He would pray with his patients before each surgery. It not only gave the patients encouragement but also gave him the strength and security he needed.

Dr. Hawkins loved children. They took to him because of his kindness and all the little things he did for them.

Dr. and Mrs. Hawkins adopted FERN LEONA (Mr. E. F. Willet of Ohio) when she was two months old.

Toward the end of his practice, Dr. Hawkins was hard of hearing but he did not let that conflict with his work. His wife worked by his side for 53 years.

Dr. Hawkins was known for his big and beautiful garden. He would start working on the garden as soon as he returned from Florida. ART WRIGHT would help him.

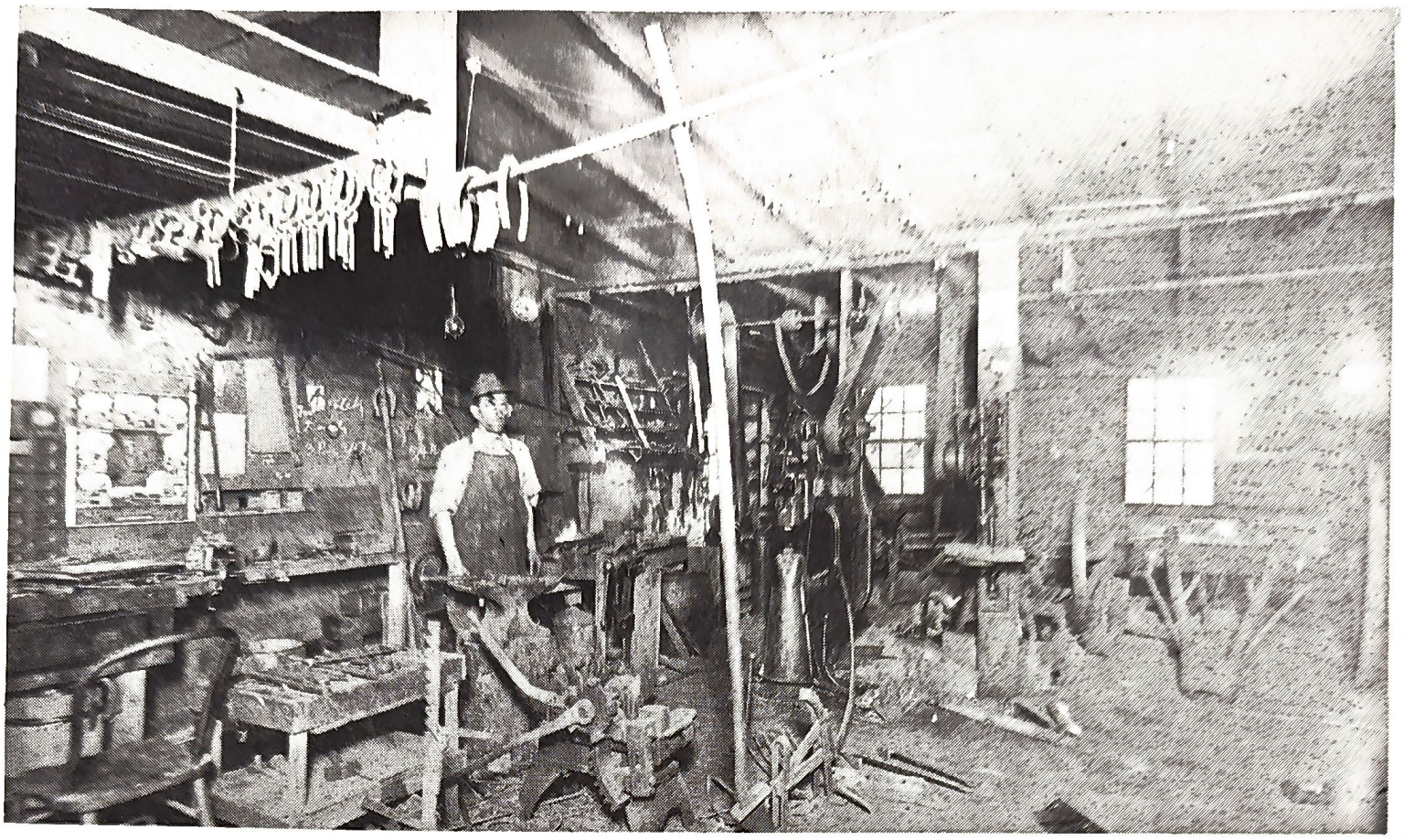
Dr. Hawkins had one sister, MRS. MARTHA FULLER of Long Island, Alabama, and one brother, HERMAN, of Lodi, California.

FERN WILLET now lives in Hendersonville, N.C. Fern had two sons, Edward and Robert. Robert is now president of the Kettering Medical Center in Kettering, Ohio. LYDIA (MRS. FRED) EPPLE worked for Dr. Hawkins in his house and the last thing he told her was "I have made peace with God and I can go there." He died on September 28, 1942 at the age of 79.

DR. HAWKINS was known not only throughout the county, but throughout the state for his superb medical practice and his lovely garden. (Art)

Both Dr. Hawkins home and clinic and the hospital, now owned by BJORNVICK are listed with the national registry for historical homes.

Submitted by Heidi Epple



Oscar Bodin in shop early 1900's

MONTROSE CITIZENS AWARD

Five years ago the Montrose Softball, Inc. began honoring a Montrose citizen at its annual sports banquet in January. Each award was given to someone who has been ready to give time, energy and support to community activities and to individuals in the community. Citizens who have been honored are:

ELEANOR WRIGHT, for the many good deeds she has done over the years for friends and community. She has been city treasurer for more than 40 years and has been Montrose's Number One Sports Fan.

CHARLIE W. NELSON, named Mr. Montrose for his activity participation in civic and church activities for 35 years. He is a member of the fire department and police department.

BILL BABATZ, JR. has been a city council member for 7 years and is now mayor. He has been a member of the fire department for 12 years and a member of the church finance committee. He, too, is willing to help in any civic affair.

MARGIE ONSTOTT has been a Girl School troop leader, and organizer, a member of the Methodist Church, and an active member of the Wright County VFW Auxiliary #1901 and Wright County Cancer Crusade fund drives. She is responsible for putting out the flags for each national holiday.

HOWARD THORESON has also been an active community member, a member of the Fire department for 41 years and an active member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

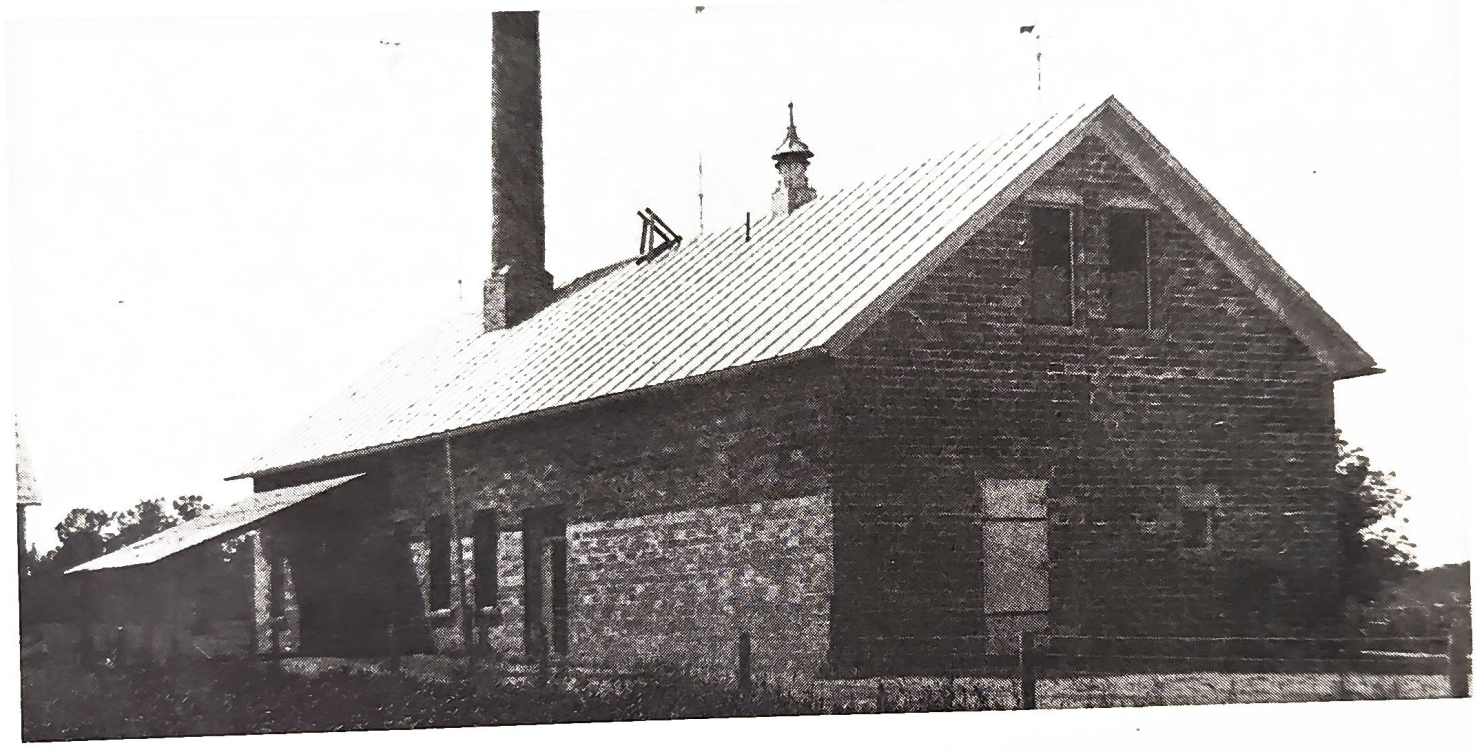
MONTROSE CREAMERY

The first privately owned creamery in Montrose started in 1896. It was located where Red's Coffee Bus is now located. The owners were ROBERT POTTER and R. M. MURRY.

The farmers around were thankful when it came in because then they didn't have to go to surrounding creameries that were so far away. It was convenient to haul the milk to Montrose. By May 13, 1896 the creamery was receiving about 4000 lbs of milk daily. Later that month the amount of milk received had risen to 7000 lbs.

The creamery was a great success until the competition of the new co-op creamery. In 1902 the creamery had to close its doors because of declining business.

The FARMER'S CO-OPERATIVE Creamery had 154 PATRONS IN 1928.



Citizens of Montrose who did not live here in the early 1900's, may be interested in the following article, about our Montrose Creamery, quoted from the HISTORY OF WRIGHT COUNTY, VOL. II, published in 1915.

"TRE MONTROSE FARMERS' CO*OPERATIVE CREAMERY ASSOCIATION, located in the village of Montrose, was organized March 2, 1901, by RICHARD BENNETT, JAMES PADDEN, JOHN O. TURNGREN, C. H. FERRELL, F. H. KRAUS, CHARLES POGREBA, FRANK LEITER, WILLIAM MALONEY, and C. H. QUINN. The frame building put up in 1901 was operated until 1912, when the present modern edifice was constructed. The officers were: President, C. H. QUINN; Vice President, JOHN DEVANNEY; Treasurer, F. M. ROSS; Secretary and Manager, E. W. FERRELL; Directors, WILLIAM ECKELBERRY, MICHAEL DERRIG and JOHN EPPLE. In 1914 the Creamery received 2,529,375 pounds of milk and 234,836 pounds of cream, in which there were 156,801 pounds of butter-fat, for which there was paid to patrons, $53,447.87. The receipts for the year amounted to $57,581.05. There are 145 patrons owning in all some 1,000 cows. The favorite breeds are the Holstein,

... national registry for historical homes. ... by BJORNVICK

Shorthorn, and Jersey. Before 1900 a private creamery was operated at Montrose but it did not prove a success. Of the Montrose Farmers Co-Operative Creamery Association it has been said: "The new creamery building is one that would surely be a credit to any association. And when we take into account the product turned out at the plant, and the prices paid to the patrons, we are assured that the Montrose Creamery is as near perfection as can be found anywhere in the state. Much credit is due to the efficient butter-maker, W. E. REDMAN, and to the present manager, E. W. FERRELL, whose able and successful efforts are steadily keeping the accounts on the right side of the ledger, and buying automobiles for the men who milk the cows. All in all, the Montrose Creamery is a success from A to Z."

FRANKLIN NORTHSIDE FARM BUREAU

The Franklin Northside Farm Bureau unit was organized April 1, 1938 with JULIUS DIXON as the first president.

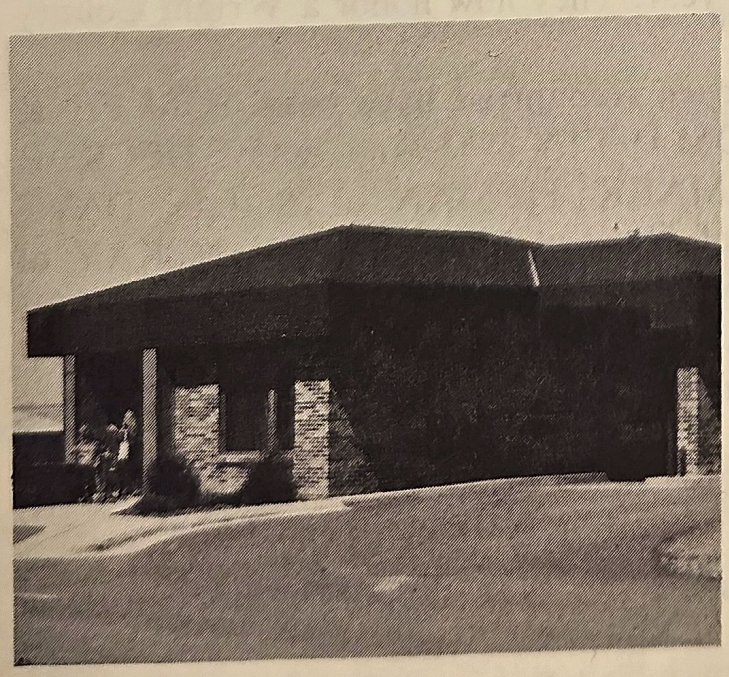
Hybrid Seed Corn, growing baby chicks, grasshopper poison, marijuana and other weeds, agriculture price outlook and dairying were the topics of many meetings.

In 1941 the unit joined the Farm Insurance Plan.

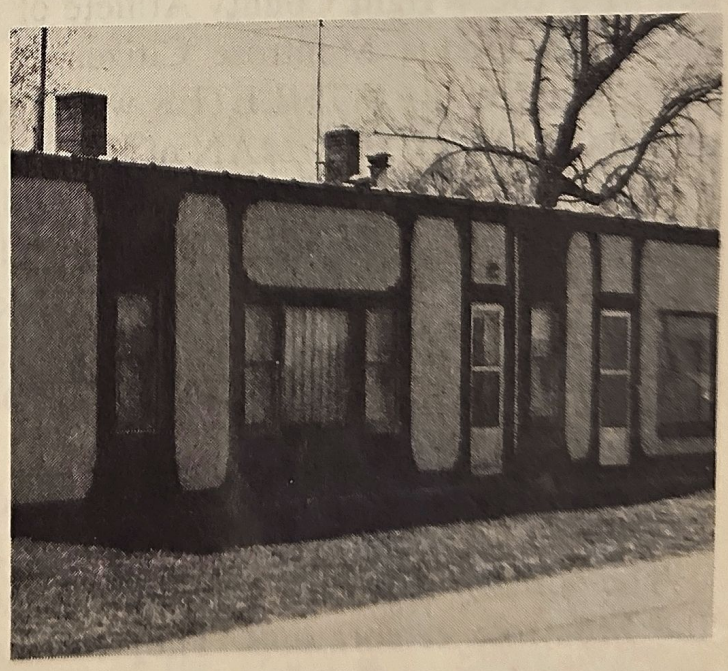
During 1942 there are notes that indicate that the Farm Bureau units donated seeds to Russia to reseed the crop lands where crops and future seed crops were destroyed.

In 1944 Farm Bureau women were requested to assist in making surgical dressings and all members were solicited by the blood bank.

For many years, the Franklin Northside Farm Bureau held meetings at the District 48 school house. In more recent years, the meetings have been held at member's homes.



State Bank of Delano, Montrose Branch



Padden Machine Sales

MONTROSE SOFTBALL, INC.

The Montrose Softball, Inc. began in 1966 with eight members. Most of the men had played ball in school and wanted to continue the sport. They began by taking a 10 year lease with a 10 year option on the Montrose ball park.

During the first year they ran a couple of tournaments and worked with a make-shift concession stand. Many improvements have been made over the years, all with volunteer labor: a concession stand, announcing booth, electronic scoreboard, portable toilets, a cyclone fence which surrounds the park, a sunken dugout, professional bases and bleachers. Members feel THEY HAVE DONATED about 10,000 hours of labor and about $30,000 to make the Montrose ball park one of the finest in the area.

Since there are no membership fees, the group raises working capital by a fund raiser each spring. The HE-SHE MIXER raises from $700.00 to $2200.00.

The ball park is busy four nights a week and all week end from May 1st to Labor Day week-end when they host a three day tournament. Five or six tournaments are sponsored during the summer and Montrose has hosted district and state modified and fast pitch championships.

Local businesses sponsor all kinds of softball activities: fast pitch, slow pitch and modified pitch. This year, for the first time, there will be a Women's modified pitch team.

Montrose Softball, Inc. is registered with the Minnesota Park and Recreation Board. There are now thirteen members with wives often volunteering as much time and energy as the members.

Besides softball activities, the group co-sponsors Santa Claus day in Montrose. They have donated to the Christmas light fund, helped with retirement parties for Francis Kelly and Charlie Nelson. They have sponsored a yearly sports banquet, which has been a huge success.

The banquet, THE WRIGHT COUNTY SPORTS BANQUET, idea began by honoring the Wright County Athlete of the year. They now honor a Wright County Sportsman and a Montrose Citizen.

Wright County ATHLETES who have been recognized have been TOM FINK of Delano, EARL BAUMAN of Delano, TOM DITTY of Delano, DALE DECKER of Waverly, PAT REILLY of Buffalo, MARK TIEMAN of Buffalo, DAVE CORNELL of Buffalo, JOHN PETTIT of Howard Lake, BARSY McKAY of Cokato, BRUCE WESSMAN of Cokato, BOB O'NEILL of Delano, ROBIN RAISMUM of Monticello, (the first woman to be honored) and DAVE GUTZKE of Waverly and BARB MEYER of Delano. Since 1981 they recognize a young man and a young woman.

SPORTSMEN who have been recognized have been DICK GABRELCIK, DOUG SCHAUST, CLIVE CLOEQUT.

The softball club will be doubly busy during the 1981 summer, participating in the Montrose celebrations. They will have a Montrose "100" float in the Delano parade and will bring the Delano Clown Club and Delano High School Band for the Montrose parade. All members will be busy August 21, 22 and 23rd with tournaments and races.

Montrose Mill & Elevator Company
Dealers In
Grain, Flour, Feed, Implements and Coal
Montrose, Minnesota

THE MONTROSE WOMAN'S CLUB 1925-1981

The Montrose Woman's Club was organized on October 5, 1925, with twenty members. There were two meetings a month, one was literary and the other for handicrafts. The Club motto is "Knowledge is Power." MRS. FRANK ROSS was the first president.

In 1934 the club became a member of the largest volunteer service group of women in the world, The General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Some early projects were a father and son banquet and a community Christmas celebration for 300 children. The group sponsored a town band by serving suppers and dances. They raised funds for a well and plumbing for the Town Hall, for chairs, stage curtains and footlights and for a picnic table and pine trees in the village park.

In 1928 the club planned the Memorial Day exercise including visits to the local cemeteries by hay wagons. In 1939 the VFW joined the club in observing the Memorial Day.

In 1964 the group hosted the 10th District Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs convention. There were 111 delegates in spite of a severe snow storm on April 13th.

The most visible community improvement project has been supplying Christmas decorations for the city since 1942. Now the work is joined by other volunteer groups, Montrose businesses and individuals.

Several citizens have been honored when they retired: MR. WILTON STEVENS, who was mayor for 25 years, MRS. MYRON (EV) HAYES who was a teacher for 42 years, MRS. FRANCIS KELLY, who owned a grocery store for 33 years and MR. CHARLES W. NELSON, who managed the local lumber yard for 33 years. These retirement celebrations were planned and executed by all volunteer, church and civic organizations with real community spirit. More than 500 people attended the most recent celebration.

During the 55 years 143 women have been members of the Women's Club. One charter member, MRS. WILLIAM McNEELY is still living. MRS. HERMAN JESKE has been a member for 54 years. Many women have been members 25 years or more.

There is an open membership and the purpose of the group is to promote the spirit of cooperation and good will toward all to the end that the club may raise the standard of civil life in the community of Montrose.

Submitted by Lucille (Mrs. Alfred) Mohring

BOY SCOUTS IN MONTROSE

The first Boy Scout troop in Montrose was organized in 1917. Two adults, EDMUND and GENE BELDEN, stated that they were members of this troop. Scouting was in its infancy then and there are no records of the troop.

In February 1946 Boy Scout troop 354 was formed, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Committee members included FLOYD PUFFER, ART WRIGHT and DAN PADDEN. The first scoutmaster was EDD ONSTOTT. Some of the boys in the troop were BOB STEVENS, DWAYNE PUFFER, FRED STEINGAS, HARVEY MIELKE, TOM STEVENS, DANNY PADDEN, EUGENE SALONEK, and RON YAGER.

FLOYD PUFFER became scoutmaster when Edd re-enlisted in the Army in June 1946. The troop was a going concern until Floyd's death in 1950. The troop was inactive then until 1965 when a new troop, #312, was formed.

The Montrose Volunteer Fire Department sponsored the new troop. The committee included CLIVE COEQUET, MYRON HAYES, ERV OLSON, ALFIE MOHRING, and GEORGE SALONEK. The Scout master was again Edd Onstott. Assistant scoutmasters were REV. RANDY HARVEY and CHARLES L. NELSON. C. L. NELSON was scoutmaster from 1969 to 1977. Some of the first boys in the troop were PAUL and ALLEN MOHRING, MARK VARNER, RICHIE KINGSTEDT, BRUCE and DALE ADICKES, CLIFF HARVEY, MIKE GALVIN, HARVEY OLSON, JACK GREER, PAT FISHER, KIM WRIGHT, RAY MICHAELS, TOM SALONEK, and GEORGE SALONEK. The current scoutmaster is RODGER HESSEDAL.

Over the years the troop has won many national awards and has won its share of awards at Camporees, Klondike Derbies, Scoutoramas, First Aid Rallies and fishing derbies. The members of the troop have taken part in many camping sessions at Camp Many Points, Camp Stearns, Camp Heritage and Albrights Mills. In July 1976 the troop went to Yellowstone Park. The leaders were CHARLIE NELSON (and BETH) and LEO (and SANDY) HAMNER. They discovered that two weeks in a station wagon can be fun!!!

Special events that have been a part of the scouting program in this area have been paper drives, pancake dinners and spaghetti dinners.

Q Q CLUB

Forty seven years ago a group of neighborhood women met to discuss upgrading their homemaking skills. They invited the home demonstration leader to meet with them monthly. They planned a pot luck luncheon and a program to exchange ideas on preparing food, sewing, crocheting, knitting, macrame, canning and other homemaking skills.

Over the years, they have also been involved with many projects. They have raised money by serving food at auctions, having rummage sales, bake and produce sales. They have had sewing projects: making aprons, dresses, quilts, etc. The money they made from their projects was donated to charities such as Red Cross, Helping Hands and Sister Kenny fund.

They worked with the home demonstration leader until they decided to branch off into smaller groups. At the meetings fun, fellowship and food prevailed. It was from the meetings that the name Q Q was formed. As a source of inspiration and fun Q Q has come to mean, the quacks of good quality and quantity.

There have been about 60 members in the Q Q Club over the years. EMMA YAGER, the oldest member, has been in the club approx 20 years. This years officers are NANCY DANIEL as president, IRENE DEHN as vice president, MARY McDONNELL as secretary-treasurer and LINDA MARKHAM as reporter.

Submitted by Gladys Kowalke

TOWN AND COUNTRY CLUB 1950-1981

On February 16, 1950, ELVA WANNEBO invited eight young ladies to her home. With the help of ZINA HAYES, KITTY FERRELL and EVELYN PRICKETT and 22 QQ members, the new club was organized. Four of the original 22 members are active today: MARGE FERRELL, LEONA FOEDE, CLARA HICKMAN and LILA POLZIN.

The purpose of the organization is purely social. Some of the activities have included picnics and steak-frys with families, Christmas parties, movies, theater, visits to the arboretum and dinner at fine restaurants.

There is one meeting a month for the fifteen members. Some thirty members have belonged to the Town and Country Club since 1950. These members have shared many experiences during that time: the birth of children, moving into a new home, grandchildren, graduations, weddings and retirement. They are also there to give support and share the sorrow of the death of an infant or spouse.

Members are GLORIA ADICKES, BERNITA CEBULLA, HARRIET CRAWFORD, MARGE FERRELL, BIRDIE HICKMAN, MARGE JORDAN, BERNICE KALINOWSKI, VELMA LUNDBERG, LUCILLE MOHRING, LILA POLZIN, ENA WOOD, and LEONA FOEDE.

MONTROSE MIRACLES 4-H CLUB

(also called Country Cousins).

The Montrose Miracles was organized September 29, 1954. Nineteen members answered the first roll call. VANCE DESENS was president; TERRY BLOWERS, vice president; PATTY KOWALKE, secretary; ARNOLD LUNDBERG, treasurer; CONNIE ECKELBERRY reporter; and JIM ROBERTSON, librarian. Leaders for the year were MRS. HARRY ROBERTSON, EARL LUNDBERG and MR. AND MRS. JOHN FILEK. PATTY and CONNIE KOWALKE received ribbons at the state fair that first year.

Throughout the years other members have been to the state fair. MARY ANN SCHUBERT was too young to attend the fair in 1954 but a few years later she was chosen an outstanding leader to represent Minnesota in Washington, D.C. MIKE HICKMAN received a blue ribbon for his sr. yearling cow and DENNIS EPPLE won a blue ribbon for his potatoes.

...d creamery in Montrose ... were ROBB...

The club has participated in numerous projects over the years, donating their money to charities such as C.A.R.E., March of Dimes, care packages to Viet Nam. Some of their projects included selling light bulbs, having food sales, and basket socials. For entertainment they had hay rides, sock hops, picnics. They contributed to the welfare of the state by distributing "No Burning" signs during the dry weather. They have participated in parades, displaying their 4-H projects.

In 1968 the name of the group changed to Country Cousins.

During the past ten years many members have come and gone. Altogether there have been 32 families and 65 members belonging to the club. At the tenth anniversary picnic at Hayes Picnic grounds, approximately 150 people were present. In 1979 they had a sleigh ride, donated cookies to the Ebenezer Home in Buffalo, carried safety as our club project, and sent members to the state fair with exhibits and demonstrations. In 1980 the Country Cousins Club took part in buffalo Days Parade, marched in the Montrose Loyalty Day Parade, and presented a skit at "Share the Fun."

FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS EXTENSION GROUP

In 1948 some concerned women in rural Montrose decided they could use help with problems about home, health and community. Some of the members were KITTY FERRELL, RUBY WALKER, GLADYS KOWALKE, MELINDA SCHULTZ, RUTH ROSS, LOU ECKELBERRY, LEONA FOEDE, CLARICE ECKELBERRY.

They thought that an extension club from the University of Minnesota could help solve some problems and at the same time create a social time for them. The club was then known as The Friendly American Neighbors. Since then the name has been changed to Friendly Neighbors.

Each member took turns hostessing and giving lessons on various subjects such as cooking, canning, cleaning, sewing, etc. All the members worked constantly toward community growth and welcomed all the new people to the area.

One of the many projects undertaken was the making of a centennial quilt featuring the two hundred years of the U.S. and the original colonies. The quilt was raffled off and the profit was used to purchase a large dictionary and stand for the new school in Montrose.

Although the club was disbanded in 1979, the work projects and social activities will always be remembered.

SPORTSMEN

Basketball, baseball, softball, wrestling, fishing, hunting, and trapshooting are all sports that Montrose residents have enjoyed throughout the years.

Until after World War II, each small town around would have town teams for basketball and baseball. The young men would want to continue the sport after high school, so they played on the town teams. If a Montrose boy would play for the team of another community, he would earn four or five dollars a game. During the 30's some local men went to Montana to play on some semi pro-teams.

There were no special coaches for the teams 50-75 years ago. The school superintendent, or principal would coach not only basketball and baseball but also the school plays.

In 1924 Montrose High school went to the state baseball tournament in St. Cloud. They lost the championship by a narrow margin to Bemidji, a much larger school. They had to play the championship without two of their star players, 'MOSE" KLATT and GEORGE STAPLETON, because they had signed to play ball for Moose Lake that summer.

Basketball and baseball are only in high school sports now, but Montrose has an active softball club.

Montrose students are very active in the high school wrestling program. Last year MIKE HABISH, then a junior, won the State Wrestling Championship in the 126 weight division. His record last year was 29-1. This year he returned to state and placed 2nd. His record this year was 29-2, with a three year school record of 83-5. His brother, RICK, was an all conference champion this year with a 24-3 record. MIKE WRIGHT, a senior, was a state qualifier with a 21-7-2 record. CURT RUTER was also an all conference champion with a 14-11 record. Two Montrose B team wrestlers also have impressive records. DEAN JACQUES, a 7th grader who weighed 85 lbs had a 7-4 record in the 98 lb. class. RICK VALLI, an 8th grader, had a 13-1 record in the 145 lb. class.

CLIVE COEQUYT has won state trophies for bass fishing and ERV ADICKES has won state championship for trapshooting. The Byron Churchill Family - Byron, Jim, Mary - have won many trophies and awards for their Trap Shooting prowess.

The high school has added many girls programs and this year the softball teams will have a women's softball team.

MONTROSE GUN CLUB

THE MONTROSE GUN Club, which started about 1953, was one of the first active gun clubs in the area. The 15 members first purchased a used hand operated trap and added other supplies, shells and targets, bit by bit. In 1953 shells cost $15.00 per case and by 1981 the prices had risen to $80.00 per case. The first targets were 90 cents per case of 135 targets and in 1981 they were $4.00.

League shooting started in 1955 and there has been from 8 to 12 teams participating each summer. In 1961 the club was incorporated and a clubhouse was built. Lights and an electric trap were installed in 1963.

There have been many fine shooters at the club winning their share of merchandise and trophies at other shoots in the area.

In 1972 ERWIN ADICKES won the Minnesota 16 yard title and went to the national championships at Vandalia, Ohio. HARRIET (BERQUIST) SPELETT-STOESZER won the ladies state championships in 1974 and 1975 and also went to the national shoot at Vandalia.

JAMES CHURCHILL won the state junior handicap championship at St. Cloud in 1980.

These and other shooters have many beautiful trophies on display in their homes as a remembrance of their trap shooting accomplishments.

SOME THOUGHTS OF ESTHER EPPLE OF EVANSTON, IL.

"I see that the Hayes family is planning a reunion. I think they were part of the group that had organized the Christian Church in Montrose. This was a real active church at one time near Jerry's service station.

"I do not know who organized the one-time German Evangelical Church. The Lutherans later took over. I know HATTIE PFAFF and the SHOEMAKERS were a part of this congregation as were KREITLOWS. EMIL KREITLOW worked for us on the farm when in high school and later graduated from Naperville College, a part of this church. He was a successful preacher. At least I know he preached in Portland, Oregon. He may or may not be living any more - Dad used to keep in touch and also Esther Michael.

"Our grandfather Epple on the old homestead was a great friend of the American Indians. When he came from Dayton, Ohio, folk met him in St. Paul and brought him by oxcart. This was before the Civil War.

"My house in Montrose I believe was built by GRANDPA KLATT. I remember him. It would be a little over 100 years old. Other houses on that street are also over 100 years old - the house to the south of me and the house where Leona Foede lives, the Shoemaker home. I suspect the Greehling house is that old too.

"There were so many fires so there aren't so many old houses left.

"I miss the trains. Mildred and I were taught by Mr. Michael to swing a lantern in a certain way and stop the 5:45 a.m. passenger train so that we could make our 8 a.m. classes at Hamline Monday mornings. Kids today miss that experience.

"We haven't had our own Montrose newspaper since Viola and Esther Crawford sold out to the Waverly Star. Viola is Ellen Epple's grandmother. We used to have quite a few businesses in town. Now folks go to larger places."

ST. PAUL'S & TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES

On Palm Sunday, April 4, 1909, Rev. P. J. BLUMENKRANZ conducted the first Lutheran service in Montrose village in the building which at that time belonged to the Campbelites. Later that spring they used the church owned by the Evangelicals. This building with extra lots was eventually purchased for $800.00.

The name of St. Paul's was selected on November 9th of the same year when F. LANGE, SR., A. SCHIMMELPHENNIG, F. HASSAND, F. BARLAU met for the purpose of organizing themselves as a Christian congregation. Also at this meeting F. LANGE, JR., and G. HASS were accepted into membership of the congregation.

Rev. BLUMENKRANZ was already serving the Trinity Lutheran Church of Crawford Lake and Salem Lutheran Church in Franklin Township, often called the Schroeder Church.

Rev. HENRY BRUNS, followed Rev. BLUMENKRANZ as pastor. He helped to originate the Mt. Olive congregation in Delano. His brother, Rev. EDWIN BRUNS came to St. Pauls in February 1918. Both Bruns families resided in Delano.

In 1932 Trinity joined the St. John's congregation in Buffalo but rejoined St. Paul's in 1936 under the leadership of Rev. ALVIN LEERSSEN. Rev. LEERSSEN began his work as the first resident pastor in July 1932. He was one of the members of the first confirmation class ever to be publicly examined and confirmed in St. Paul's in 1920. The Longer house, just east of the former post office, was rented for the parsonage. In the spring of 1940, St. Paul's purchased a home one block west of the Church for $850.00. The church building was redecorated under Rev. LEERSSEN'S leadership. Under his faithful service, St. Paul's experienced constant growth under the blessing of the Lord God.

Rev. F. R. WEYLAND followed Rev. LEERSSEN on February 1941. During his pastorate St. Paul's planned and began extensive remodeling on the church building. The church was raised and a full basement was put under it. Ten feet was added to the front and another ten feet was added to the back of the church.

Rev. C. H. LUEKER was installed as shepherd of his flocks in January 1947. The remodeling program was finished during his stay. Due to advanced age and ill health, he was forced to retire from the active ministry in September 1948.

After a few month's vacancy Rev. MARVIN HANKE accepted the call to serve the two congregations in 1948. During his pastorate the parsonage was partially remodeled.

There was another short vacancy before Rev. ALVIN SCHULZ joined Montrose community. In June 1956, he began his work as the 8th pastor of the congregation. During the next vacancy Rev. G. GEIGER of Immanual, Pelican Lake, served as a vacancy pastor before Rev. ROBERT SIEVERT was ordained and installed in July 1964. Under Rev. SIEVERT'S leadership an entry was added to the church.

In 1969 the Lord led Rev. HERTLER accepted the call to serve here for more than a year. The addition of the building was completed at that time and the dedication took place in April 1970. Carpeting and redecorating of the church were completed.

The pastor from Immanuel, Pelican Lake, Rev. N. KUSKE, again filled in temporarily when Rev. HERTLER left. Rev. MARTIN SCHWARTZ was ordained and installed in July 1971 and served until 1976. During his stay a new parsonage was built on a lot just north of St. Paul. The beautiful parsonage was dedicated in the spring of 1972. Through Rev. Schwartz, his wife Helen, and their children, the Lord brought many wonderful blessings to St. Paul's and Trinity. As was the case so often, it was a sad day when this pastor and his family left.

One month later, the current pastor, Rev. TOM WESTENDORF, was ordained and installed in July 1976.

The Lord has greatly blessed the congregations of St. Paul's and Trinity under leadership of these dedicated pastors. Through their faithful labors the Gospel message of full and free forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ has been proclaimed from the pulpit and shared privately to many persons. St. Paul's is still ready to share the message with any and all who come to worship with them. In this very insecure world, Jesus Christ is the one rock upon which anyone can build his or her future without fear of disaster. Welcome to all!!!

WRIGHT CEMETERY

The Wright cemetery, which is located in the city of Montrose, is a part of what was the original GEORGE M. WRIGHT homestead that originated in 1858. The cemetery was started in 1908, when a family friend, Charles Krause, who had no relatives, was buried there through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. George M. Wright. MRS. WRIGHT (MARY SOPHIA HAINOR) was also buried there in 1908. Mr. Wright (GEORGE M.) was buried there in 1909. In addition, 5 of their 9 sons are buried there: HERBERT, JOHN WESLEY, HENRY, CLARENCE and WM. HUDSON. Nine grandchildren are also there: Vesta Knoll, Cecelia Stevens, Ruth Ferrell, Wm. Lynn Wright, Pansy Onstott, Arthur Wright, Jackie Wright, Bessie Wright Crawford and Raymond Wright. One great grandson, Clyde Ferrell; two great, great granddaughters, Ruth Elaine Ferrell and Vicki Claire Onstott; and 1 great, great, great grandson, Mark Elletson are there. This makes 6 generatons of Wrights in all.

Buried there, also, are the in-laws of John Wesley Wright, Emelia and Christian Mumm.

Veterans from several wars are represented in the little cemetery on the hill: George M. Wright from the Civil War; Dan Elletson from World War I; Clyde Ferrell from World War II and Myron Hayes from World War II, who was also a Japanese Prisoner-of-War for 42 months.

Submitted by Mary Ferrell

LEO AND CLIVE'S BAR

In the fall of 1959 LEO AND MILDRED COEQUYT happened to pass through the Village of Montrose. They decided to stop at Amos's Bar for some refreshments. Leo started a conversation with AMOS CHALUPSKY, the owner. Leo told him he had been looking at a grocery store and that he wanted to buy a business for his son and daughter-in-law. Amos said, "Why don't you buy my bar?" Much conversation followed and later Leo contacted his son Clive and his wife JOY in Estherville, Iowa. On December 1, 1959, the Coequyts went into the on-off sale liquor business.

Looking back into the history of our liquor store, I have found some conflicting dates. However, we do know that the store was built by LOUIE RUZICKA on land which was owned by Herbert Gene Wright. 3.2 beer was legal in 1933. On December 5, 1933, national prohibition was repealed. By 1936 all but eight states again permitted the manufacture and sale of liquor. However local ordinance left some towns and cities still dry.

The store was built after 1936. Some say it was built in 1938. There have been only four owners. LOUIE RUZICKA had the bar about four years; BUD ASPEN had it six years; CHALUPSKY had it 13 years and we have had it 21 years this coming December.

When we bought the store, it looked quite different. The store has been built on to about five times. We made the major change when we built on a new dance room about ten years ago.

Back when we started, we didn't have the large beer cooler we have today. One reason was, we didn't sell any of the national beers, such as Millers, Bud, etc. Also we weren't so diet conscience and didn't have the many kinds of lite beer made by practically all beer companies today. The only beer that was really popular then was Schmidt's, Hamm's, and Grain Belt. Back then, we didn't have packaging like we do today. There weren't any 12 packs, 24 suitcase packs, etc. We had one small cooler back of the bar and carried maybe ½ dozen six packs of three different kinds of beer.

We used to buy all of the ice cubes we used for drinks. Then we bought an ice machine and then a larger one and then a deep freeze. Now we bag ice and sell it ourselves.

Of course, over the years, probably the biggest change is the prices. When we started, a glass tap beer was 20 cents. Now it is 40 cents. A shot of whiskey was 35 cents and is now 80 cents, if you don't call for a special brand. Bottled beer was 35 cents and is now 75 cents.

A few things I recall changing over the years is when we first started, everyone was very conscious of Lent. So during Lent, we never had music or dancing on Saturday nights. Then I remember when we used to put green food coloring in the beer for St. Patrick's Day. We used to have a Happy Hour on Wednesday nights and you could get 5 or 10 cents off the price of your drink. We also had free feeds, like turtle soup made by KASPER KIESE'S wife, LUCILLE. And we had some smelt fries. When I look at the off-sale liquor bottles, I see there are a lot of old brands we don't carry anymore. I wonder how many people remember the brands, Rock & Rye, Old Crow, Four Roses, Three Feathers. Many of these have been replaced by Canadian brands.

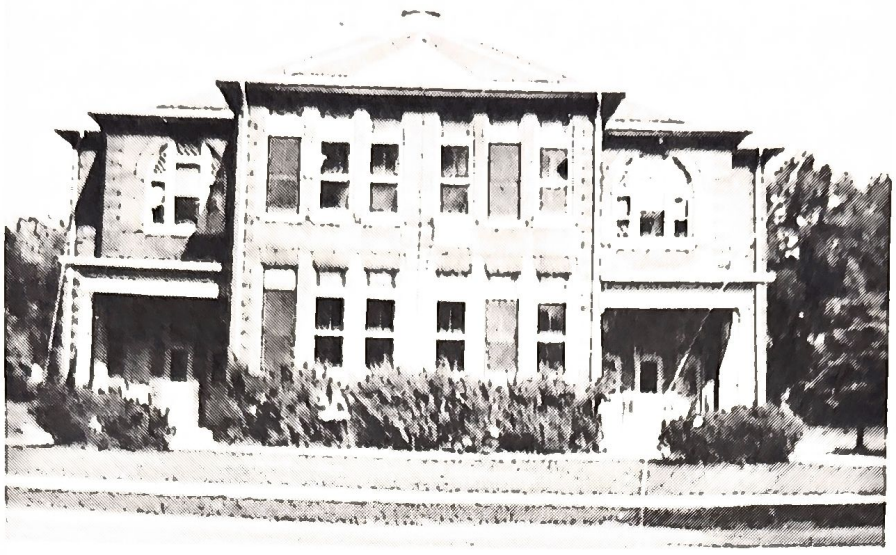
For two reasons I would like to mention our present employees. One, they are such good workers and trustworthy. And they are so suited to work with the public. Our employees are ORVILLE and JANE MORTENSEN. DANNY and STEVE MORTENSEN help their parents clean up for us on Sundays. SUSAN WINDSPERGES, WENDY DUSKE, BOB NOVAK, BILL and MARLETTE BABATZ and BILL AND BARB SALONEK also work for us and are all special people to us.

Over the years we have had our ups and downs but we have made some wonderful friends and have tried to make our business one the community can be proud of. We want people to come and have a good time with their friends.

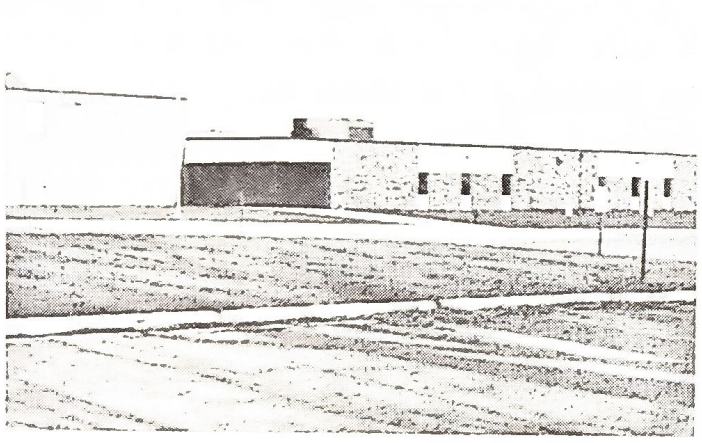
If dad hadn't stopped in Montrose that day, we wouldn't be here now. Thanks, dad, for we have had many happy years and are really excited about celebrating the village's 100th birthday.

submitted by Joy Coequyt

MONTROSE SCHOOLS



Montrose School



Elementary School opened 1976

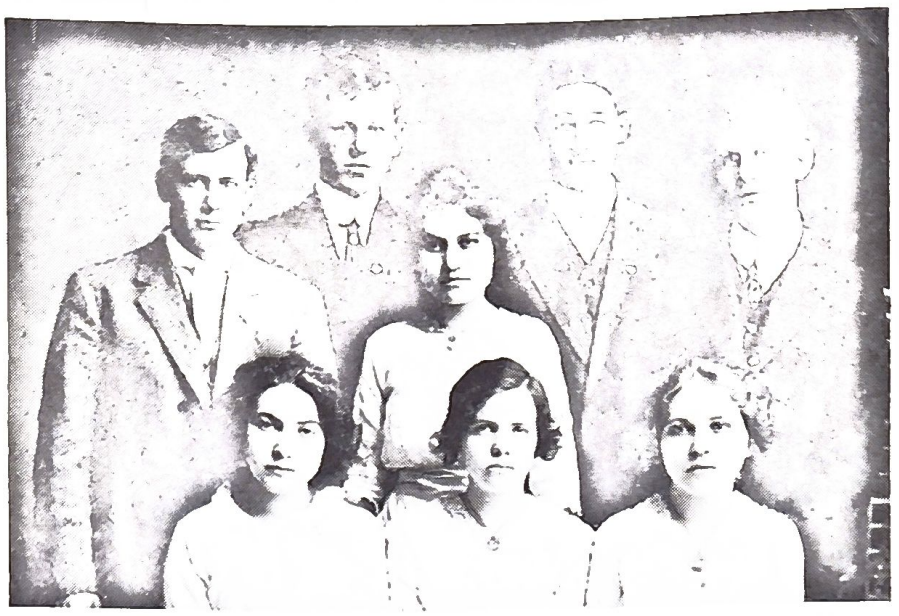
#58 closed in 1960
Walker School

Montrose School; District 38, about 1910

Montrose School; 7th & 8th Grade, 1922

Montrose School; 1st & 2nd Grade, 1926-27

Montrose School; 3rd & 4th Grade, 1926-27



Back Row-R. H. Bothroidt, Ed Schultz, Albert Epplle, Ed Miller Front Row-Germain Crawley, Mildred Snodgras, Myrtle Ferrell, Grace Crawley

Myron Hayes, Marc Keart, George Stapleton, Gustavus Adolphus, 1926

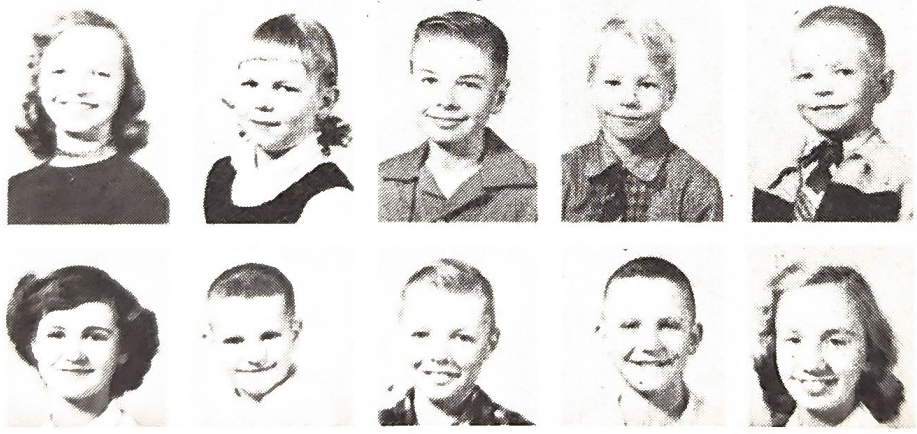
Graduates of 1922

School District 74; 1930

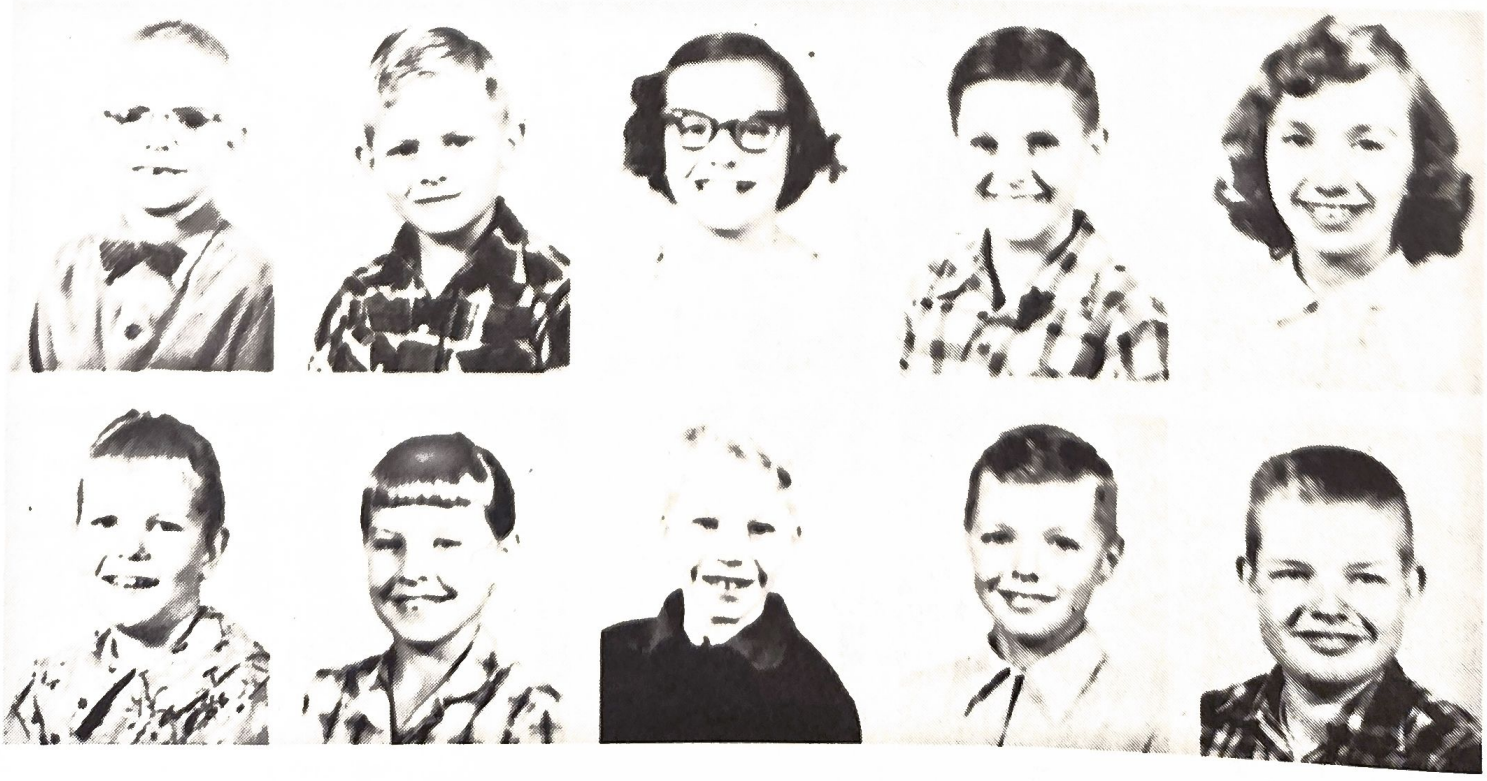
Class of 1925

Montrose School; 1st & 2nd Grade, 1951-52

Montrose School; 3rd & 4th Grade, 1952-53



Bland School 1955-56



Bland School District #58, 1956-57

SCHOOL PROGRAM

Declamatory Contest and Junior Class Play

Thursday, March 27th

8:00 o'clock p. m.

Montrose Village Hall

Declamatory Contest

Dorothy Mumm	"All Men Are Equal"
Arthur Soshnik	"Toussaint L'Overture"
Edna Elsenpeter	"Fine Feathers"
Lorraine Moeller	"White Hands of Telham"
Angela Stotko	"For the Honor of the Family"
Helen Bodin	"Oscarina Bakes a Anyel Cake"
Gertrude Locke	"A Half Hour at the Beach"

Class Play

"Grandma Sets the Stage"

Cast

Grandma Blesington	Helen Bodin
Julia	Harriet Wandersee
Nona	Eloise Thoreson
Hildegarde	Cecil Hays
Mrs. Cummings	Dorothy Hersch
Bill	Marie DeNoon

Admission 25c & 15c

Montrose Brass Band, 1904

Jerry's Standard

Conoco Service Station

EIC Corporation

Montrose Market

Montrose Hospital

John Devaney

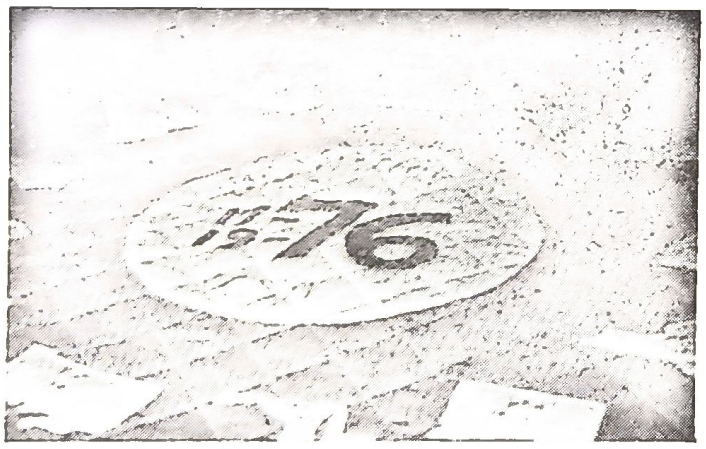
V. F. W.

Old Depot moving 1966

VFW Post 1901

Sylvester Salonek - VFW Charter Member

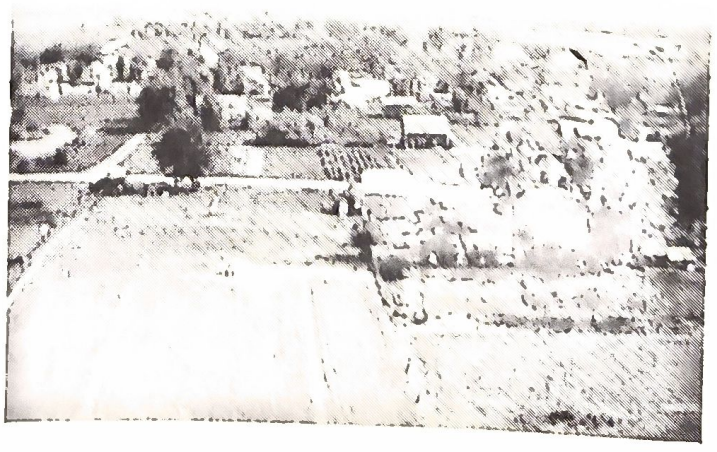
Alice Endreson - VFW Aux. Charter Member



Friendly American Neighbors Bicentennial Quilt.

Friendly American Neighbors Extension Group

4H Picnic, July 1955



South aerial view from water tower

THE ADICKES FAMILY

FRED ADICKES was born June 17, 1821, in Germany. He came to America and settled in Texas. In 1856 he came north to the "Big Woods" in Minnesota and rode horseback across the wild and unsettled land until he reached St. Paul. After he was settled, he sent for his wife, ELIZABETH, and son, Fred, Jr; they also came to Minnesota on horseback.

In September of 1857 Fred filed a land claim and homesteaded on the east side of Fountain Lake. Fred Adickes was one of the first supervisors of Newport, which was organized on May 11, 1858. Later this name was changed to Franklin Town, now Franklin Township.

At the time of the Indian scare (apparently the Indian uprising of 1862) the family packed up and went to Rockford to the stockade for safety. They traveled by sled down the frozen Crow River. The sled, packed with people, didn't crack through the ice; however, the dog running along the side of the sled did. Fred lived on the homestead until his death, Dec. 8, 1902. His wife Elizabeth died Jan. 8, 1892.

Son, FRED JR., was born in Texas in 1854, the only child of Fred and Elizabeth. In 1874, FRED JR. married AMELIA BOERNER of Albion Township. They were the parents of eleven children: Fred Ludwig, Charles, Albert, Frank, George, John, Elizabeth (Mrs. John Schiverin), Anna (Mrs. Dennis Calahan), Minnie (Mrs. Nelson), Hattie (Mrs. Kelly) and Henry.

FRED JR. farmed the homestead with his father until about 1898 and then moved to Maple Lake where he lived for 34 years. Fred Adickes, Jr. died Feb. 29, 1932. Amelia passed away in 1929.

FRED LUDWIG, the eldest son of Fred Jr. and Amelia, was born May 9, 1875 in Franklin Township. He farmed the homestead land. On Nov. 29, 1898, he married LOUISE KRAUSE, and they lived in the farm home where his grandfather and father had lived. Eleven children were born to Fred and Louise. ALBERT of Delano, REGINA (Mrs. Phil Kelash), HERBERT of Waverly, CLARA (Mrs. Albert Strey), LILA (Mrs. Omey Bursch) LENORA (Mrs. Clark Maxwell), ALICE (Mrs. Peter Roy), ALMA (Mrs. Matt Motzko), GEORGE of Waverly, ARTHUR of Lester Prairie and DAYTON of Montrose.

FRED LUDWIG was a member of the Salem Lutheran Church and when that body merged with the Mt. Olive Church, he became a member there. He had always taken an active part in the affairs of the community. He was chairman of the school board for over 49 years, supervisor of Franklin Township for 7 years and president of the Delano Co-op Creamery Ass'n. for 7 years. After living on the Adickes homestead all of his life he passed away Dec. 26, 1945. His wife, LOUISE, sold the farm in February of 1946. The farm had been in the Adickes family for 91 years. Louise Adickes passed away April 5, 1960.

ALBERT, eldest son of Fred Ludwig and Louise, was born in Franklin Township on Nov. 20, 1923. He married RUTH EAGY, whom he had met when she was teaching at the old school in District 32.

Albert and Ruth lived on a farm west of Delano on Woodland Road, where they had moved shortly after their marriage. Albert farmed and also sold farm insurance for about 38 years. For over 25 years he was also Franklin Township clerk. Albert

was his constant helper and they were both very active community workers. They are both buried in the Wright Cemetery.

The children of HUDSON AND IDA WRIGHT were WILLIAM LINN, LOIS and BERNICE. LINN was a great help to his father in caring for the horses in the Livery Stable and in assisting in the work at the hotel. He later moved to Minneapolis and worked as a painter and a carpenter. He married CREOLA HERMAN, who passed away one year later from typhoid fever. She is buried in the Wright Cemetery. LINN then married CLARA GAST in 1919. They moved to Buffalo where they lived the rest of their lives. LINN lived to be 99 years old. They are both buried in the Wright Cemetery.

LOIS graduated from Montrose High School and from Teacher's Training. She taught school for several years and married ROY GIBB from Cottonwood, Minnesota. They had three children: MARGARET, GALE and ARLYS. The two girls are buried in Crystal Lake Cemetery in Minneapolis and LOIS, ROY and GALE are buried in Vallejo, California, where the family lived for some time.

BERNICE was born November 6, 1892 and graduated from Montrose High School. She took training at Cokato Teacher's Training School and taught school for six years. She married DAN ELLETSON after his service in World War I. DAN was rural mail carrier for 28 years and BERNICE worked in the post office for 22 years. DAN passed away in 1947 and is buried in the Wright Cemetery. BERNICE, then married RENE DUPOUY on June 20, 1956. They lived in California before returning to Montrose. RENE passed away June 2, 1972 and was buried in California.

BERNICE and DAN had two children, ALLAN and BETH. ALLAN married AUDREY HICKMAN. They live in Robbinsdale where ALLAN has been a tool and die maker for many years. They have two sons, CRAIG and STEVE.

BETH taught school for a few years and then married MARVIN SKAPPEL of Dassel. He is now a retired Commander of the Navy. They live in Bellevue, Washington with their children LYNN, MARGARET and NANCY.

GEORGE M. AND MARY SOPHIA WRIGHT

Among the first pioneers to settle in the Montrose area were GEORGE M. WRIGHT and his wife, MARY SOPHIA HAINOR, who traveled from Montrose, Pennsylvania in Scranton County, to this western frontier, then called the Minnesota Territory. They arrived shortly after our state had been admitted to the Union in 1858 and settled on 80 acres under the Preempt Act in Section 35, Marysville Township, now a part of Wright County.

The first post office was established in their log cabin home. Mr. Wright was appointed the first postmaster about 1861 and the village was named after their home town in Pennsylvania. More facts about the family can be obtained in the The HISTORY OF WRIGHT COUNTY, Vol. I, page 460, published in 1915.

Nine sons and one daughter were born into this family: HERBERT, HUDSON, ERNEST, HENRY, CLARENCE, CHARLES, GEORGE DWIGHT (DOC), GRANT, JOHN WESLEY, and ANNIE LORI. All of the children, except the two oldest, were born in Montrose.

SOPHIA WRIGHT passed away in 1908 at the age of 74. She is buried in the Wright Cemetery which is located on the old homestead. GEORGE WRIGHT passed away one year later on August 5, 1909 at 74. He is buried next to his wife.

HERBERT WRIGHT was born March 13, 1856 in Pennsylvania. He married RUTH ANNE COLE, who was born June 8, 1863 in Indiana, on October 6, 1878. They had nine children: HENRY, MARY, CECELIA, GLEN, VESTA, RUTH, DUD, PANSY, and HARRY, who is still living.

HUDSON, the second son, married IDA COWAN. They raised their family in Montrose.

ERNEST, the third son was born and raised on the Wright homestead. He spent most of his adult life in California and is buried there. He had no children.

HENRY WRIGHT married MARY CROLLEY. They lived in Montrose where he was rural mail carrier, via horse and buggy, for many years. Henry was buried in the Wright Cemetery.

DWIGHT (DOC) married ANNIE WARTA from Watertown. They lived in Watertown for some time where he worked with his brother, Charles, as a barber. Doc and Annie also lived in Montrose, Donnelly and Park Rapids. He worked at various jobs and was very good at spreading the good word wherever he happened to be. Their children MABEL, WARNER, FRANK, MARIE and RAYMOND. Raymond is buried in the Wright cemetery and the others are buried in Park Rapids.

CLARENCE lived with J. WESLEY and CLARA WRIGHT. He helped farm the old homestead. He was unmarried and is now buried in the Wright Cemetery.

GRANT WRIGHT was born in Montrose April 27, 1870. He spent most of his life here. He married MINA KREIDLER, and their children were: EARL, RUBY, CLIVE, LILA, LEAH, VIVIAN, ADA, and KENNETH. They all attended the Montrose School, and were affiliated with The Montrose Methodist Church. GRANT and MINA operated the Montrose Hotel, on Railrod Street, with the help of their children, for several years. MR. WRIGHT will also be remembered by many folks as having a route where he sold Watkins, and other sundry products, around the country side. He had many steady customers who awaited his arrival. Grant was a member of the Montrose Band for many years. His wife, MINA, was kept busy, too, with various jobs — one of which was being a Mid-Wife (which was mighty important in those days'.). She was a hard worker — never idle.
Marriages of the Grant Wright children were as follows:
RUBY married Harry Walker; Clive married Julia Rassett;
LEAH married Basil Collier; Vivian married Dan Luce;
LILA married Al Pogreba; ADA married Gust Templin; Earl and Kenneth unknown. (Those Deceased are: RUBY, CLIVE, EARL, VIVIAN, and LILA.)

GRANT passed away in 1941, and MINA in 1953. Both are buried in the Kreidler Cemetery.

JOHN WESLEY married CLARA MUMM and had 10 children. They lived in Montrose and were active members of the community.

ANNIE LORI married FRED BELDEN and lived in Montrose. They built the big house across the street from the Montrose Market where the Struther's family now lives. They had two sons, EUGENE and EDMUND, now both deceased. Fred was the manager of the Liberty Lumber Yard for many years and Annie Lori was housekeeper for the Herb Pricketts and their son Gordon for many years. Fred and Annie Lori were both great workers in the community. They are buried in the Cassel Cemetery.

CHARLES married INEZ KERR. They had five children. They lived in Buffalo and Montrose and in other towns in Wright County.

GEORGE M. WRIGHT FAMILY RECORDS

GEORGE M. WRIGHT — Born in 1835 — Died 1909
Mary S. Wright — Born in 1834 — Died 1908
Children — Herbert, Laurie, Clarence, Henry, Hud, Dyke, Charles, Wes, Grant, One name unknown.

HERBERT G. WRIGHT FAMILY

HERBERT G. WRIGHT — Born in Pennsylvania in March 13, 1856
Died 1925 at the age of 69.

RUTH ANN COLE — Born in Indiana June 8, 1863
Died 1950 at the age of 87.

They had 11 children, MARY, HENRY, RUTH, PANSY, HUDSON, EDWARD, DOUGLAS, CECELIA, VESTA, GLENN, HARRY.

HERBERT was on the school board, the town Recorder, a paperhanger, and taught Sunday School at the Methodist Church of Montrose, Minnesota.

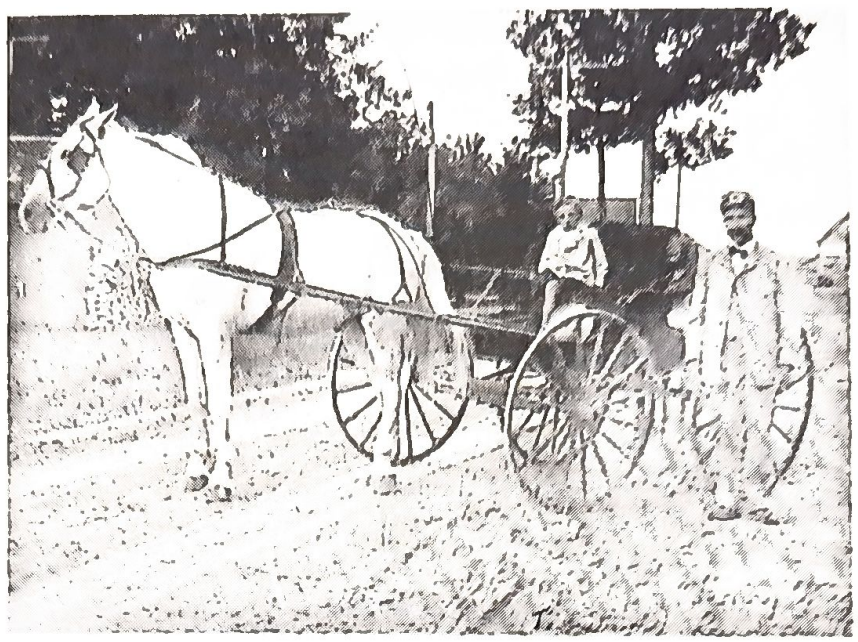
Daughter — MARY Wright — Born October 1, 1879
Died Sept. 1951 at the age of 72.
She married MATT PRICKETT of Montrose Mn.
He was working for the Mpls. Street Railway Co.
They had 4 children Herbert, Forrest, Ruth, Donald

Son — HENRY Wright — Born November 9, 1880
Died 1964 at the age of 84.
He married ANN MULLVILHILL of Mpls. Mn.
He was a well driller.
They had 8 children RUTH, WILBUR, JIM, FRANCES, BOB, ED, ELEANOR, LEO.

Daughter — RUTH M. Wright — Born Feb. 6, 1882.
Died in 1932 at the age of 50.
She married ORVILLE FERRELL of Montrose Mn.
He was a storekeeper.
They had 3 children CLYDE, DOROTHY, DOUGLAS

Daughter — PANSY B. Wright — Born Nov. 22, 1883
Died in Feb. 25, 1954 at age 71.
She married CLARENCE ONSTOTT of North Dakota.
He worked for the Street Railway of Mpls. Mn.,

Peter & Frances Weiderko



Tib and Henry Wright in 1906

Charles and Clara Schultz 1901

Onstott's

James and Eliza Hayes

George Michael's House

Decoration Day Exercises

MONTROSE, MINN., MAY 30th, 1917.

Citizens and School Children will assemble at the Oddfellows' Hall at 9 a.m. and will proceed to the Wright Cemetery to decorate the graves. The German, Kreidlers and Cassel Cemeteries will then be visited for the same purpose.

At 2 o'clock the following program will be given at Johnson's Hall.

Selection.....Band

Invocation.....

Recitation.....“A Song for Our Country”
Johnny Seibel

Song.....“Soldier's Good Night”
Male Quartette

Address.....Rev. Adams

Vocal Solo.....Germaine Crolley

Exercise.....“G. A. R. Memorial”
3 Boys and 3 Girls

Patriotic Drill.....20 Girls

Gettysburg Address.....Ernest Volkenant

Song.....“Old Glory”
H. S., 7th and 8th Grades

Selection.....Band

Recitation ...“The Flag that Betsy Made”
Mildred Epple

Song.....“There are many Flags”
School Children

Recitation.....“Our Flag”
Luverne Schwerin

Address.....Rev. Scholberg

Song.....“The Star Spangled Banner”
Audience

Recitation.....“The Flag Goes By”
Roy Kreitlow

Song.....“How Betsy Made the Flag”
7 Girls

Exercise.....“The American Boy”
8 Boys

Selection.....Band

At the close of program a Ball Game will be played between the Married Men and Regular Team

Decoration Day

8:15 Band Concert

8:30 Procession Leaves Hall

WRIGHT CEMETERY
- SONG ..... JUNIOR CHORUS
- PRAYER ..... REV. ALLAN
- TAPS ..... PHILIP LAHR

GERMAN CEMETERY
- SONG ..... A GROUP OF BOYS
- PRAYER ..... REV. ALLAN
- TAPS ..... PHILIP LAHR

CASSEL CEMETERY
- SONG ..... EVELYN AND CLARENCE EPPLE
- PRAYER ..... REV. ALLAN
- TAPS ..... PHILIP LAHR

KREIDLER CEMETERY
- SONG ..... QUARTETT
- PRAYER ..... REV. ALLAN
- TAPS ..... PHILIP LAHR

RETURN TO HALL FOR PROGRAM

Town Hall Program

I BAND SELECTION ..... SEVERAL NUMBERS
II NUMBER ..... PRIMARY CHILDREN
III SONG ..... THE JUNIOR CHORUS
IV RECITATION ..... IN FLANDER'S FIELD
RESPONSE—MARVIN WILLIAMSON
V SONG ..... MALE QUARTETT
VI GETTYSBURG ADDRESS ..... ARTHUR SOSHNIK
VII MUSIC ..... SELECTED
VIII ADDRESS ..... ATTORNEY OWEN GALVIN
IX BAND SELECTIONS ..... SEVERAL NUMBERS

YOUR RATION COUPONS

SUGAR:

Sugar coupon No. 29 in book 4 good for five pounds, valid through January 15.

GASOLINE:

Coupon No. 9 in A book, good for three gallons through January 21.

MEATS AND FATS:

Brown coupons L, M, N P and Q valid through January 1.

CANNED GOODS:

Green coupons D, E and F in book 4, valid through January 20.

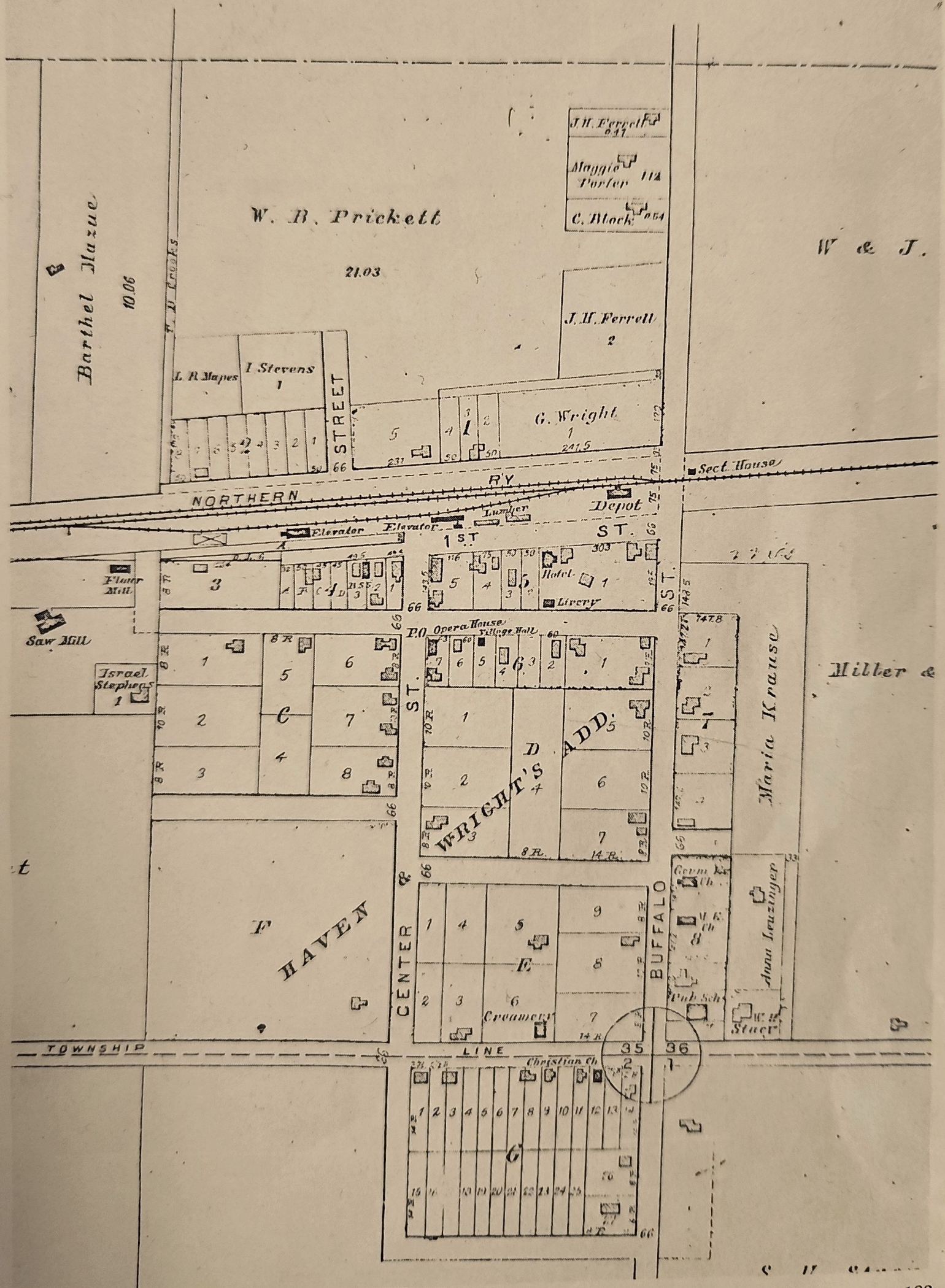
FUEL OIL:

No. 1 coupon good for 10 gallons per unit each through January 3. Each five-unit coupon good for 50 gallons. Period 2 coupons good through February 7; period 3 coupons good through March 13.

SHOES:

Coupon 18 in book 1, and airplane coupon No. 1 in book 3 each good for one pair.

MONTROSE

LOCATED IN MARYSVILLE & WOODLAND TWPS

Scale 300 ft - 1 inch